

BAY AREA REPORTER

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bottom Line on AIDS

New Strengths, Skills Gained Despite Community Losses

by Charles Linebarger

San Francisco has been called the mecca of the gay movement. For two decades gay men and lesbians have flocked to this tolerant northern California city. They came seeking fulfillment to their dreams of living their own lives in the way they chose. Gay neighborhoods, or ghettos, blossomed. Bars, restaurants, shops and clubs catering to gay men and women mushroomed almost overnight.

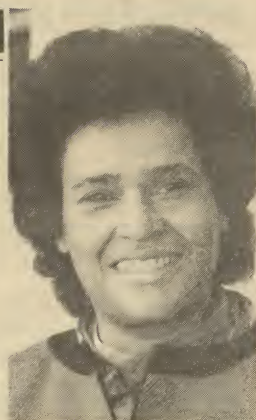
This city elected the nation's first gay supervisor and has led the way in many community issues. Today, by conservative estimates, one-seventh of San Francisco's population is gay or lesbian.

An epidemic disease unheard of five years ago has suddenly enveloped the gay community here as in other cities. In its wake, a backlash threatens civil rights gains of the gay community accomplished over the last twenty years.

But gay San Francisco, though stunned, has fought the disease and its political fallout every step of the way. Health workers from across the nation come here to see how this city, the city that boasts it "knows how," is coping.

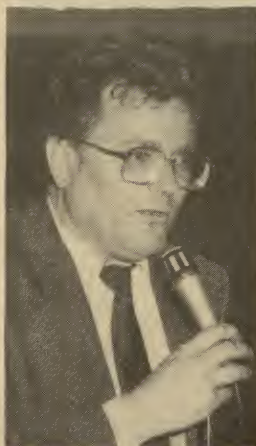
As the fifth year of this siege begins, we asked a number of prominent San Franciscans where they thought we're headed. What effect has the AIDS epidemic had on our community? What has changed for the better or for the worse? What does the future year hold in store? What about the non-AIDS agenda for the gay community?

(Continued on page 13)



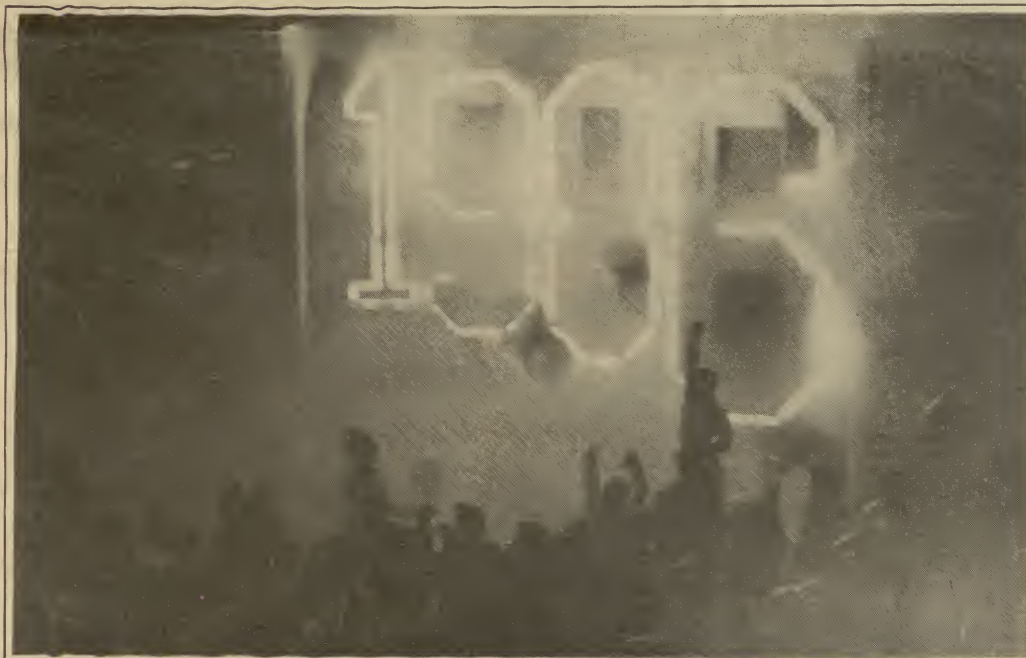
... people are beginning to see what has happened to us as a group. And we are building coalitions with the women's movement, labor, peace and anti-apartheid groups.

— Pat Norman



'We're trying to interact as adults who are effective and powerful and have something to bring to the system. Gay activists today are teachers.'

— Harry Britt



Hail to 1986!!

What better way to ring in 1986 than with a special show of lights.

That was the sentiment at the GiftCenter when 1985 left us and 1986 joined us.

The GiftCenter was one of many festive gay places all over the Bay Area. From Polk to Castro to Haight to South of Market to north of San Francisco to south of San Francisco (and west and east, too!): Happy 1986.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Isherwood

A Literary Giant, He Was Unabashedly 'Queer'

by Ray O'Loughlin

Acclaimed gay author Christopher Isherwood, whose *Goodbye to Berlin* stories inspired the musical *Cabaret*, died Saturday, Jan. 4 at his home in Santa Monica. He was 81 years of age and had been suffering from prostate cancer. He is survived by painter Don Bachardy, his lover for 33 years.

Though best known for his association with *Cabaret*, Isherwood is valued by gay readers for other works. His novel *A Single Man* (1964) was one of the earliest and most powerful portrayals of a positive, strong gay character. An earlier book, *Down There on a Visit* (1962) candidly related many vignettes of homosexual life in the 1930s. And in *Christopher and His Kind* (1976), Isherwood's unique style of sparse and graceful but engaging reportage reached its zenith.

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Midgett is no midget when it comes to battling stereotypes in the classroom. Caroline Streeter interviews Mary Midgett of the Gay Speakers Bureau, page 15.

Big Brothers are watching to make sure that gay men don't get to help needy youngsters, page 14.

John Sharpless' poetry is beginning to reap rich rewards, page 22.

Adverse Effects End Suramin Study

25 Subjects Drop Out of Study; Complain of Side-Effects, Confusion on Dosage

by Charles Linebarger

One of the early drugs that was touted as a possible tool in the fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been discovered to have side-effects so severe that its experimental use has been discontinued in San Francisco. Far from helping the chosen few who made it into the Suramin study, the drug has cost some of the 25 subjects in the pilot study some serious health problems. It may have hastened the deaths of others.

(Continued on page 3)

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Isherwood

(Continued from page one)

Born in England in 1904, Isherwood lived for a time in Berlin on the eve of the Nazi rise to power. It was that experience that he related in *Goodbye to Berlin* and *The Last of Mr. Norris* (published jointly as *The Berlin Stories*). Those stories later became the play *I Am a Camera* by John van Druten. The play was turned into the popular musical *Cabaret*.

Isherwood characterized his writing style as that of a camera "recording, not thinking." He captured the fullness of human dilemmas in a dispassionate but sympathetic manner. He generally included himself in his non-fictional fiction accounts, usually referring to himself in the third person.

Isherwood was a devotee of Vedanta and those beliefs figured in much of his later writing. He produced a number of translations of Vedantic texts, including the *Bhagavad-Gita*. One novel *A Meeting by the River* (1967), dwells on a westerner's attempts to reconcile West with East. The book focuses on two brothers—one gay.

His spiritual searching was, most completely revealed in *My Guru and His Disciple* (1980) in which he recounts Vedantic teachings on sexuality.

Isherwood wrote that once he asked his teacher, Swami Prabhavananda, "Can I lead a spiritual life as long as I'm having a sexual relationship with a young man?"

"I do remember the Swami's answer: You must try to see him as the young Lord Krishna."

Isherwood's circle of friends included the literary geniuses of his day, W.H. Auden, Stephen Spender, W. Somerset Maugham, E.M. Forster.

In *Christopher and His Kind*, Isherwood related this vignette about Forster's long suppressed gay novel *Maurice*:

"Did Christopher think *Maurice* as good as Forster's other novels? He would have



Christopher Isherwood and lover Don Bachardy. (Photo: Rink)

said—and I still agree with him—that it was both inferior and superior to them; inferior as an artwork and superior because of its purer passion, its franker declaration of its author's faith."

In 1939, Auden and Isherwood emigrated from Britain to the U.S. Isherwood soon went on to California where he remained. He became an American citizen in 1946. A pacifist, he was a conscientious objector during World War II.

"Without question, he is one of the half dozen major writers of the 20th century, in any language, to deal with gay themes," said Prof. Don Liles, who has taught Isherwood's novels in classes at San Francisco City College. "There is a gay sensibility in his work from beginning to end," said Liles.

But Isherwood's achievements went beyond books, he said. "No one seemed happier living a gay life than Isherwood did. He was one of the few of his generation who always was open."

Liles called *A Single Man* a masterpiece. "The book is a perfect integration of his Eastern philosophy plus gay themes."

But he called *Christopher and His Kind* Isherwood's greatest

book. "It was the best integration of autobiographical material into the social fabric of the 1930s and 1940s," said Liles. "He is better at being the camera of himself here than anywhere else in his writings. He is both inside and outside himself, detached and involved as Sappho was in her poetry."

Liles paid tribute to Isherwood saying that he lived "one of the finest lives for a gay person that I've ever known, a well-rounded, beautiful life."

Isherwood was known for his uncompromising candor about his sexual allegiance. He loved to denounce the society about him as "the heterosexual dictatorship."

He was thought of as one of the most articulate spokespersons of the gay movement. But Isherwood frequently commented that he never liked to be called "gay." It was frivolous, he said, and could easily land one in awkward semantics. He always preferred to be called "queer."

He once told a reporter, "In taking up the case for one minority, that of homosexuals, I have spoken for all minorities."

R. O'Loughlin

AIDS Program Shift Called Cover-Up

Federal Budget Office Proposes Moving AIDS Effort to Surgeon General's Direction

by George Mendenhall

U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop has had no role in formulating federal AIDS policy, but he is being urged by the Reagan Administration to be the overall director of the entire effort. The Office of Management and Budget is proposing that "the surgeon general and a small staff will be designated to coordinate the department's (AIDS) activities." The attempted shift away from the federal Health and Human Services Department was attacked by Paul Boneberg, director of Mobilization Against AIDS.

The OMB does not make it clear in its report if it is proposing that the surgeon general will have a voice in formulating policy or have a new role in allocating funds to the agencies within the HHS, but Boneberg saw the move as a federal cover-up.

"I strongly oppose this," he stated, "This is an attempt by the administration to make Koop the lightning rod to take the heat off its lack of action on AIDS issues—the same thing they did when James Watt was appointed to protect the environment. Rather than have HHS be a scapegoat for their actions, they propose someone who is anti-gay."

Boneberg charged that Koop

has made anti-gay remarks in the past and "certainly is no friend to our community. Some consider him an enemy. Fortunately for us, he has been concentrating his effort on the prevention of smoking," he said.

"The attempt by the Administration is political maneuvering in order to coverup for their inaction on AIDS. There will be political hell to be paid because hundreds of thousands will be sick and dying of AIDS. Koop would be the straw man when that happens." The most recent illustration of this, he stressed, is the attempt of the White House to relate AIDS education to pornography.

Boneberg stressed that there is a need for a coordination of the

federal AIDS effort, but that this should be done by a Congressional task force rather than an administration shifting of responsibility. He said the AIDS task force in California could be a model for this effort.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-LA), chair of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and a leader in the House fight for increased AIDS funding, said he would be "carefully monitoring the proposal. Suddenly the OMB has gotten involved in managing health programs in budget documents. For some reason it wants to transfer these complex research and public health programs to an office of very little direct experience with the epidemic."

In its fiscal recommendations for 1987 the OMB granted the full HHS request for AIDS-related activities—\$213 million. This is \$17 million more than the Administration requested for 1986 and \$17 million less than Congress appropriated to combat AIDS for 1987. OMB recommended 1987 fiscal cuts for HHS—including cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and National Institutes of Health grants.

The Centers for Disease Control, which operate under the HHS would remain untouched in its AIDS program, but would receive only \$15 million rather than a requested \$30 million for its chronic and environmental health program

Suramin

(Continued from page one)

Greg Tinnerman, a 28-year-old former stockbroker, went into the experimental study last June. He was then in the early stages of Kaposi's sarcoma. Tinnerman was getting 500mg. injections of the drug once a week at first. He recalls the side-effects caused by those early injections.

"After the second dose I went through a pretty high fever and a rash that went on for about a week. The fever was between 104-105°, and the rash was severe," he told *Bay Area Reporter*.

On Aug. 27, Tinnerman's dose was doubled to 1 gram of the drug once a week. In the same month he suffered his first bout of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and was put on the drug Septra. At first Tinnerman experienced only more fatigue and nausea. But in December his situation worsened. He suffered another bout of PCP and a new, unlikely symptom developed.

"I was unable to urinate and I began to retain fluids," Tinnerman recalled. "I guess you'd call it kidney failure. My lover had to take me to the emergency ward at Davies. There they had to stick a catheter in me to drain me out. They think that the Suramin had had an effect on my kidneys. But I was on the drug Septra too which is also hard on the kidneys."

Tinnerman knew another man who had been involved in the Suramin study. "He was in his mid-thirties and had KS when he went into the study," he said. "He felt that the Suramin was real hard on him. He just got weaker and weaker and thinner

and thinner until he got a real bad case of PCP. He has since passed away."

A third man involved in the Suramin study preferred only to give his first name. He recalled how he learned that his dose of the experimental drug was being doubled.

"I was already leaning back in the IV chair when one of the nurses asked the other if I was to get the 500mg or the one gram dose. That's when I told them I was already getting side-effects after only two weeks on the drug and maybe I should wait a couple of weeks. Then the first nurse said to me, 'Paul, the increased dose will not increase your side-effects.' After I received my injection the second nurse told me that the protocol manager had not got around to telling everyone yet, but that I could see her later in her office to sign the consent form required for the increased dose."

Paul's side-effects soon advanced from the usual fatigue and stomach complaints to a condition known as adrenal insufficiency or more popularly as Addison's Disease, a disease characterized by fatigue and pigment discolorations. He has an unlikely tan on his fair face now and a number of new moles.

"No one's called me to set up follow-up arrangements," said Paul. "They are only set up when I go into the hospital to

complain. And the doctors have yet to do a thorough physical on me since I left the study. Both of these are required by the study's protocol."

Study Co-chairperson, Dr. Lawrence Kaplan, talked to the *B.A.R.* about the experimental drug. "We no longer have any patients being treated with the drug," said Kaplan. He refused to say categorically, however, that none of the 25 patients in the Suramin study have died of the drug since the project was begun in April 1985.

"We've had a number of people on the drug who became adrenal deficient," said Kaplan. "The adrenal glands produce a number of hormones that are necessary to life such as cortisone. We don't know yet whether this is reversible."

Kaplan said that there was weekly monitoring of the patients in the study looking for liver abnormalities and adrenal problems. When asked whether the study was continuing he said, "Mostly, people just dropped off the study, a lot of people weren't feeling that well."

Dr. Paul Volberding, the Suramin study chairperson, confirmed that. "When we realized that adrenal insufficiency was happening and especially after viral culture monitoring (which showed the drug was having little effect on the AIDS virus), we advised the patients of the op-

portunity to stop using the drug if they wished. They all stopped."

Volberding said that at higher dosages Suramin was too toxic to be given to patients. Of the kidney failure Tinnerman experienced, Volberding said, "It's one of the side-effects we expected to see. Another patient showed liver damage. I guess we got kind of relaxed about the drug when lower dosages (500mg) showed no side-effects."

On Paul's Addison's Disease, Volberding said, "Adrenal insufficiency problems didn't seem so clear from the African use of the drug, but that could be due to lack of lab equipment there." Volberding added, that as with Tinnerman's kidney failure, Paul's adrenal problems may clear themselves up.

But, on the other hand, Tinnerman's KS lesion count tripled while on the drug and he developed PCP. Another man died of PCP he developed while on Suramin, and a third who had ARC when he went on the drug, now has Addison's Disease as well.

Volberding said that the level of monitoring of the Suramin study "was at least as good as for any study we've done." But he differed from Kaplan when he said the monitoring tests were not designed to detect adrenal problems. "They were taught with these other tests," he added.

"We're all in the same community when it comes to this situation," said Volberding. "whether we're gay or straight. We all share the same desperation for some improvement. We need to keep exploring all possibilities. Too often I hear from my patients, 'If I don't try this drug I won't have a chance.' But that's too fatalistic. Experimental drugs are experimental just because they might have side-effects. That's why we only had 25 patients in the study."

John Lorenzini, director of the People With AIDS Alliance, had definite views about Suramin and other drugs now being tested. "Suramin is like all the other drugs that are experimental," said Lorenzini. "We have no laboratory animals (who can catch AIDS and thus be tested on), so we're the ones that are experimented with. And those people who try the experimental drugs really need to 'body-listen.' The reality is that the person needs to be aware that his health must come first and the scientific experiment comes second."

"All the anti-viral drugs (Ribavirin, Suramin, Compound S, HPA-23, Foscarnet) are experimental drugs," Lorenzini added. "They are not a cure and not a magic panacea. They are simply experimental drugs in the search for a cure."

C. Lineberger

Lions and Line-up Celebrate Holiday

The Castro Lions celebrated Christmas by hosting all of the youths from the Larkin Street Youth Center. They were all served Christmas dinner. Small gifts were distributed to each youth. Over 65 persons were served. Cafe San Marcos donated its restaurant for the event.

Leticia and Raymond Luna, owners of the Line-up, Leticia's and La Posada celebrated Christmas by giving three all expenses paid trips to Puerto Vallarta and three dinners for two. Jeff McCloskey, Brian DelCore and "Janie" won the Puerto Vallarta trips and Gary Lehner, Sam McCracken and Michael Troll won the dinners. ■

Racism and AIDS

On Thursday, Jan. 16, Black and White Men Together/San Francisco will sponsor a forum entitled Racism and AIDS. The forum will take place at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St. in San Francisco at 7:30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Paul Volberding, director of San Francisco's Ward 86. He will discuss the issue of AIDS and medical treatment for minority patients. This is of particular concern in light that nationally over 40 percent of people with AIDS are minority members.

The forum will provide the opportunity for these issues to be discussed with questions, inquiries, and audience participation encouraged.

For more information please call 931-BWMT or 431-8333 and leave a message. All inquiries will be answered. ■

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Petrini's

(Photo: Mick Hicks)

Police Seek Leads In Petrini Assault

SFPD Rapped for Slow Investigation; CUAV to Meet with Petrini Manager

by Charles Linebarger

On Dec. 21 two gay men were brutally assaulted by a group of what have been described by police as punk rockers or "skinheads." One man, David Johnson, who was beaten severely in that attack, is still recuperating at home, his jaw still wired shut. His lover, Matthew Holloway, in the meantime works to make sure the police don't forget what happened to them. Inspector Armand Gordon was assigned to investigate the case one week after the incident.

"We have pursuable leads," said Police Inspector John Hennessey of the SFPD Public Relations Office, "but at this point we're not able to make an immediate arrest." When asked why it took a week to assign an investigator to the case Hennessey responded, "I don't know why it took a week. But it was Christmas week and (the department) has a backlog."

When the B.A.R. called Inspector Gordon, he refused to talk about the case other than to say, "I'm not giving any interviews at all on this case, but I will say it is progressing very well."

According to the police report, the assault on Matthew Holloway and David Johnson began at 5:45 p.m. But Holloway has said the attack began at 5:25. According to Inspector Hennessey, the first call to the police was made at 5:53, or eight to twenty minutes after the assault began, by a bag boy with Petrini's. The police arrived at the scene one minute later at 5:54 p.m.

Al Franz, general manager of Petrini's, talked about the incident to the B.A.R. "When this (the assault) went on, one of the box boys called an ambulance. But when he came out of the store, the man (Johnson) said he was alright. And so the boy went back and cancelled the ambulance."

(Continued on page 14)

The Gala Presentation Has Been Moved

Presentation of Candidates for Emperor and Empress has been moved from Hungarian Hall on Geary St. to the California Club at Van Ness and Clay. Doors Open at 7:00 PM — Donation \$5.00 in advance.

Jordan Chosen To Head SFPD

New Chief a Strong Administrator, Well-Liked in Neighborhoods

by Bob Ross

Mayor Dianne Feinstein has chosen Commander Frank Jordan to replace retiring Chief of Police Cornelius Murphy, effective Jan. 15.

Jordan is a no-nonsense police officer who now commands the Metropolitan Division, which covers the downtown police districts.

The 50-year-old career officer has 28 years of service behind him. He has commanded the Community Services Division, Northern Station and Ingleside Station.

Feinstein also extended personal thanks to retiring chief Con Murphy for his six years service as police chief. He has been among the longest serving in that position, with the average tenure being from two to three years.

Chief Murphy implemented many new innovations within the department and to his credit the crime rate has gone steadily down while police/community relations have improved. Chief Murphy also thanked the Police Commission and the Mayor for their unwavering support of his office.

Chief Designate, Frank Jordan, stated that his many years of command experience will help him to embrace the position of chief and to continue the policies of Con Murphy. He is also an action oriented administrator and will spend more time in the field with his fellow officers. He will

spend the next week evaluating the best of the department's officers for positions of deputy chiefs and commanders.

Jordan has always had a strong sense of community involvement and interaction. He has demonstrated this while head of both Northern and Ingleside Stations.

Before making her appointment, Feinstein met with a



Frank Jordan

(Photo: Rink)

number of civil rights and community groups including the American Civil Liberties Union, Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, the Latino Democratic Club, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Equal Rights Advocates. ■

Mayor Replaces Police Commissioners

by Bob Ross

In a surprise announcement on Tuesday, Jan. 7, Mayor Dianne Feinstein named three new police commissioners. It had been rumored for some time that Tom Hsieh was planning to resign and may be a candidate for Supervisor, and that Burl Toler, whose second term is expiring, would be replaced. What was not expected was the replacement of the outspoken Jo Daly, the openly lesbian member of the commission.

Feinstein praised the "great public service" of the three outgoing commissioners.

The mayor also stated that she decided to make "the changes in

the Commission at this time so that the newly nominated chief (Frank Jordan), would start out with the commissioners with whom he will be working." The Police Commission must approve Jordan's nomination. When Chief Cornelius Murphy resigns on Jan. 15, the Commission will approve Frank Jordan to become chief on Jan. 16.

Commissioner Daly, who has 12 years of public service behind her stated she resigned to go into business as a private investigator. Daly stated that she felt proud of many changes she helped implement in the police department — among them the domestic violence general order. It was found through surveys that the police spent more time investigating domestic squabbles and less time on crime. The emphasis through the new general order cuts the time spent in this area.

Daly said that one of her proudest achievements is the "My Favorite Cop" program. This program is funded by the private sector and honors policemen and women through a vote of confidence by the public.

Daly said she was ready to step down. She thanked the mayor for her support during her tenure of office.

Commissioner Daly was replaced by another active member of the community, Dr. Juanita Owen, who is currently the chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and assistant director of the Mission Community College Center. ■

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ANAL SEX AND AIDS

After four years of studying thousands of cases of AIDS, the evidence is becoming increasingly clear: *anal sex is the number one cause of AIDS transmission in America.*

Several epidemiological studies conducted independently in several different cities, involving thousands of gay and bisexual men, have produced essentially the same findings—the most significant difference between gay men who get AIDS, and gay men who don't get AIDS, is the amount and kind of Unsafe anal sex they have engaged in.

Unsafe anal sex includes anal intercourse without a condom, rimming, scat, fisting and fingering, and the sharing of dildoes and other insertive sex toys.

So our message is very simple.

If we as a community are to survive this epidemic, unprotected anal sex has to cease to be a part of our gay male lifestyles until a medical solution for AIDS is available. The risks are just too great for both tops and bottoms.

Unprotected anal sex is extremely dangerous for both partners.

Human anal tissue is richly supplied with blood vessels

UNSAFE SEX PRACTICES

Anal Intercourse
Without Condom
Rimming
Fisting
Blood Contact
Sharing Sex Toys or Needles
Semen or Urine in Mouth
Vaginal Intercourse
without Condom

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and is surprisingly fragile. Small tears open tiny paths to the bloodstream. The bottom is exposed to pre-seminal fluid, which may contain the virus, and to semen, which can contain huge quantities of the virus. The anal canal has almost no specific immunological defenses.

The top is exposed to blood and feces on his penis, and probably on his fingers and hands. Bloody feces, even in small quantities, can contain the virus (and can also contain intestinal parasites, a probable co-factor for AIDS). Tops have gotten AIDS through unprotected anal sex, just as they have gotten other sexually transmitted diseases.

Condoms can help.

Condoms are capable of stopping the AIDS virus. Anal

intercourse with a condom is still considered "possibly safe" because of the risk of breakage through misuse. (The major causes of condom breakage are air inside the condom, not enough lubrication, old or mistreated condoms, or the use of oil-based lubricants.)

It takes practice to use condoms correctly. However, condoms are readily available, inexpensive, and when used properly, are good protection. If you insist on anal sex, insist on condoms. Learn to use them.

Let's protect one another.

Let's end all Unsafe Sex practices in San Francisco until this epidemic is over. Gay men are too important to lose.



THE SAN FRANCISCO
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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Careless Words

Unfortunate is the best word to describe the situation when one struggling community is pitted against another. When people who should be allies end up sniping at one another, both are set back.

Last week international news services flashed some remarks around the globe by Winnie Mandela that fit the above misfortune. Mandela is the wife of South African black rights leader Nelson Mandela, imprisoned years ago by the white regime there for attempting to end the massive injustice of apartheid.

Winnie Mandela is now nominally free. But because of her continued and open opposition to apartheid, she was arrested last week. In the course of what was described as a "stormy arrest," Mandela shouted a number of epithets at her tormentors. One of her remarks was sent over the wire.

"Don't touch me with those hands," she told one cop, "I don't know that you haven't got AIDS."

No doubt, Winnie Mandela has a lot on her mind. Too much, probably, to learn how AIDS is transmitted and that the disease spread by racist cops is not AIDS.

But it was a stupid remark. And it hurt to see it in print. Gay and lesbian Americans by and large support the movement to bring down apartheid. Some have devoted their time and energy to the effort toward cutting off U.S. support of the government that once allied itself with Nazi Germany.

Black gays and lesbians probably feel doubly wounded by

Mandela's careless remark.

We who may someday soon be victimized by a medical apartheid have some understanding of the situation in South Africa. And we know all too well how governments can profess concern and promise reforms while little gets done and injustices prevail. One stupid comment should not end that sympathy.

Winnie Mandela probably said a lot of things during her "stormy arrest." Why was the AIDS comment the only one reported to San Francisco readers?

In the same week, reports on another violent gay bashing left out some related facts. The gay victims had escaped and were leaving the scene when their assailants turned on two elderly black women. The gay men halted their escape to protest the race bashing and then the group attacked and beat them. One was severely injured. The attackers were white. The race of the victims is not known.

That there are tensions between San Francisco's black community and gay white community is a well-known fact. But it seems that the mainstream media is intent on exploiting those tensions by pointing out a gaff while ignoring an example of gays and blacks coming together. It's an example of the divide and conquer principle.

In San Francisco's patchwork of racial, ethnic and cultural sub-communities, minorities are the majority. The powers that be know that. They're hoping we don't find out.

LETTERS

Thanks

★ Thanks for your help with publicity for the Gay Community Christmas. We fed more than 400, mostly needy gay men, but also many who just needed gay companionship and joy on the holiday.

And we thank the gay bar owners and others who donated \$552.00 and the hams and turkeys. Our expenses for the rest of the food and incidentals came to \$245.75, a very modest amount for providing a feast for so many. We still have \$309.25, which has been placed in a reserve account to assure that the dinners will continue.

We also thank the Rathskeller, who donated the use of their facilities; the Circle J-Adonis Video, who paid our grocery bill at the Council of Churches' Food Bank; Lou Green Printers, who furnished most of the plastic tableware; The Mint, which helped with the cooking;

the Pendulum, which gave a substantial cash donation; Rev. Bob Cook of the Gay Rescue Mission who solicited most of the donations; and the volunteers from the Gay Rescue Mission and Hospitality House.

The dinners are presented by a committee consisting of Rick Hansen (Chairman) and Fr. Donald Jackson, both of the Gay Rescue Mission and Empress Phillis and Tom Webber, both of the Privy Council. The support groups worked well together. The Mission's food contacts and volunteer force combined with the bar contacts of the Privy Council members assure that the program has the strength to continue.

Gay Community Holiday Dinner Program
San Francisco

Letter Policy

The *Bay Area Reporter* welcomes your letters to the editor.

Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter—this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

BRIAN JONES

Do Not Pass Go

This one is about bazookas and Porsches. But first I must set the stage.

This is a gay newspaper. This does not mean that this is a newspaper which goes out with other newspapers of the same gender; although it may, and what it does after sundown on Thursdays is, of course, none of my business.

Gay news is news of special importance and interest to gay and lesbian readers. I'm glad you asked.

So mostly I take a dim view of articles in these pages on topics such as saving the whales. I love the whales, but I can read about them elsewhere. And the editors of such publications never, I bet, put pencil-eraser to nose and remark, "Gee. Why don't we broaden our coverage. How about a gay article this issue?"

If we don't cover the gay news, nobody does.

There is the argument that some readers read only the *B.A.R.* and so we have a responsibility to reflect more of a worldview. The notion that anyone's worldview is dependent solely on the *B.A.R.* is sufficiently horrifying that I won't pursue it.

I have said all this to say that this week, my topic really doesn't qualify as gay news. I'm broaching this topic in this space not because it is the right thing to do, but because it pleases me to do so. Anyway, I can't not write anything or Allen White will end up with this shady little corner.

I must turn the crank on the side of my Smith-Corona if only to save my seat at the banquet of life.

Some of you may be getting the impression that indeed I have nothing to write this week. So let me get on with the bazookas and Porsches.

Some days it is my thesis that this society in which we live is not a civilization. It is, instead, merely a jungle with machines.

In the old days the biggest muscles, fastest feet or sharpest saber-teeth won out. This, Darwin termed the survival of the fittest.

These days in the streets of San Francisco there is a different hierarchy of power. But it is just as blunt and brutal and crass as life in the jungle.

These days the motorist with the biggest hunk of aluminum powered by the biggest belchfire 88 is king of the jungle. A truck beats a Chevy, a Chevy beats a motorcycle, a motorcycle beats a bike, a Muni bus on Mission beats anything, and pedestrians are best advised to stay where they are—cowering on the street corners.

There is nothing funny about what is happening on our streets. Daily, I see motorists turn into crowded crosswalks against the light and use their two tons of car to force people out of the way.

Last week this occurred at the garden spot of the universe, 16th and Mission. Your humble columnist ended up laying on the hood of a yellow Chevrolet Impala which illegally turned left into a crowded crosswalk.

I refused to give way and the driver refused to obey the law. I was on foot; he had a machine. Guess who won?

It was little consolation as the adrenaline rushed to my head that out of the corner of my eye shone the falsely benevolent gleam of the WALK light.

Yesterday on Duboce I saw a truck speed toward a half-dozen pedestrians who had just disembarked from the N-Judah. Blaring his horn—but God forbid he should slow down—he sent them rushing as he forced his way through the crowd. The yellow sign at the crosswalk said, "Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk."

This isn't civilization. This is a jungle with machines.

Obviously pedestrians need bazookas, the better to hunt Porsches.

LETTERS

A New Year's Injury

★ On New Year's I attended the "So Many Men '80 Party" at the GiftCenter. At approximately 2:15 a.m., I was dancing on the stage area and was hit in the face with what appeared to be a glass champagne bottle. I did not see where or who it came from.

I was bleeding profusely from above my left eye. I was taken in a room in the GiftCenter and given a gauze pad. Finally, the ambulance personnel came and said I either had to take a cab or get a friend to drive me to the hospital. They stated it wasn't serious enough to tie up their vehicles. My friends drove me to UC's emergency room where I was treated and stitched up.

I would like to know if anyone there that night saw what happened, possibly who, or what caused this bottle to break on my face. I would greatly appreciate any information. Please contact me at (415) 550-1988 or write to 584 Castro, #288, S.F., CA 94114.

I was wearing a black captain's jacket, black tuxedo pants, white shirt and pink tie and cummerbund.

Charles Hendricks
San Francisco

Where Not to Shop

★ To camp or not to camp, dress in drag or not to dress in drag, flip a wrist or swagger (or both) are not, I think, the questions.

One of them ought to be, "Where do you shop?" Not at Petri's anymore, I hope.

Boycott the bleeping place until there's at least some recognition that they acted irresponsibly, and why not, also, write a letter to SFPD Park Station?

(Ten minutes later) Interesting? There's no listing of station addresses that I can locate in the phone book, although "credit union" and "athletic club" etc. are listed. O.K., write Mayor Feinstein. I mean we just went through a whole bunch of shit on Polk Street. Is the neighborhood at Fulton and Masonic exempt?

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

Hands Off

★ I have for months been reading with interest and concern about the plight of blacks in South Africa. I have supported their quest for more human and equal treatment.

I am not sure I can do that any longer. In TV newscasts the other night showing the arrest of Winnie Mandela, her statement to the police officer, "Don't touch me. You might have AIDS," repulsed and sickened me.

David Farrow
San Francisco

Track Record

★ At first it seemed Haagen Dazs really cared . . . after all to donate a part of their sales to fight AIDS.

But it's only during the holiday season. They are part of the gigantic Pillsbury conglomerate. Having put others out of business they are now trying to force Perche No and Double Rainbow out of business.

Others may be sincere, but with their track record it must be a ploy to win us over and I feel we're too smart.

Hell, anyone can pull that good will Christmas jazz for a profit.

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

No More Time for Dennis John

★ This letter was sent to Judge Edward Stern:
"Time passes by slowly for those in pain."

Your Honor, time is a major word in my life since the night I received a telephone call from my oldest brother, Mike, in Phoenix that tragic week in July, notifying me that my oldest brother was found unconscious, permanently robbed of the rest of his "time." Time it took to drive to San Francisco with Mike (11½ hours) from Phoenix—time to think a lot about hate—a lot of time to wait for my brother, Dennis John, to die 19 hours after his arrival.

It was pure hell. I will never forget how pitiful he looked, lying on the bed in intensive care with a swollen brain, pale skin, cold hands and feet, tubes running out everywhere, no warmth in his body, just pain on his face and much, much pain in my heart.

Your Honor, one year, seven months and a few days have passed since, and time has not made the pain any more bearable.

When I think of my brother, I can only see him lying there, no more life support systems working, no more breath from his body, all of his time taken from him. I cannot just recall the good times we had shared during his lifetime. Even looking back at pictures of our past together, the ugly thoughts come first. I am enclosing a picture of my brother, sister and brother-in-law. This picture was taken on Christmas of 1982. We always tried to be together during the season for joyous times. This last year was very difficult for my family, and, although time has passed, this year is just as difficult.

My brother loved life. "Life is time"—"Time is life"—no more time for Dennis John—no more life for Dennis John. No more time for my children to see their uncle, no more time for joyous occasions shared by all as a family. For my brother—no more time at all.

Your Honor, the reason I am writing you is to thank

you, thank Mayor Feinstein and thank the State of California for taking the time to find, prosecute and incarcerate the trash who killed my brother, Dennis John. My wishes are to give them what they rightfully deserve for the malice and pain they have inflicted upon my brother and my family, pain which will last a lifetime.

Your Honor, my whole attitude about life has changed since that week in San Francisco. My life has changed daily for one reason or another. I think often of my brother and what we might have done this year. Dennis John loved the snow of Colorado, and he liked to come here during this time—the festivities, the lights, the cold. But that is not to be, anymore. Only the pain is all that is left.

Please think about death and how permanent it is, and I am sure you will make the right decision on your sentencing. No mercy, Your Honor, for the punks that took my brother's right to live away from him. Whatever or whomever gave those punks the right to rob another human being of his life in such a tragic and painful way? To be able to do something so cruel to another human being only proves those punks are made of stone. Please make them suffer for their actions—like they made my brother suffer and my family continue to suffer.

My oldest brother, Mike, spent 20 years in the United States Army, serving in Korea, Vietnam and other numerous places. I spent four years in the United States Marine Corps and served a one-year tour in Vietnam. Neither of us did this kind of injustice to another human being during our younger years. We fought for our country! Even if others didn't agree with our Commander-in-Chief with what he was involving us in at that time, we still did what we had to do to defend our country.

Now I ask that my country defend my brother and me. Make those people pay for what pain they have caused so many innocent people.

The decision is up to you, Your Honor. We did what we had to do. Now I ask you to show no mercy for those who have violated my brother's rights as a citizen of these United States of America.

James P. O'Connell
Littleton, CO

Never Forget Basic Human Rights

This letter was sent to the San Francisco Medical Society:

★ We are deeply concerned at the public release of a recommendation "urging all people at risk for AIDS to take the AIDS blood test." The test was designed to limit transmission of AIDS via blood transfusion; use of the test in general populations to promote "healthy lifestyles and to limit unsafe sexual contacts and practices" is misguided and dangerous. We find this effort, as is the draft "Comprehensive AIDS Plan" of the State of California, more interested in popularizing mechanisms of "surveillance" than providing appropriate medical assistance to high risk individuals. Healthy lifestyles do not depend on the government sponsoring massive efforts to accumulate data on "high risk groups."

We would suggest the need for involvement by the San Francisco Medical Society would be more appropriately directed at dealing with abuses associated with "public health" efforts involving AIDS. The ACLU is currently drawing up guidelines which specifically deal with these matters. We would suggest your involvement in similar efforts.

We were encouraged that some San Francisco doctors attempted to convince an overwhelmingly unconcerned AMA assembly of the need for anti-discrimination policies toward ARC/AIDS patients. We would hope that there would be an effort by the San Francisco Medical Society to work with politicians to overcome "backlash" from anti-discrimination laws. The political community has been extremely "cautious" in this area and assistance from the medical community would be of great public service.

Second, opposition to the use of any mandatory blood testing program—military, insurance, or for employment. Specifically, refusal to cooperate in any such programs by any member of your association.

Third, refusal to cooperate in any "quarantine" "surveillance" or "lists" of individuals based on a blood test or being a member of a "high risk group."

Fourth, active opposition to any government efforts to use AIDS as a means of curtailing any other rights of "high risk groups" such as the proposed "Public Health Nuisance Abatement" ordinance, amending Part 11, Chapter V, Article 11 of the San Francisco Municipal Code, a copy of which is attached.

We would encourage you to make a serious commitment toward providing a humane, rational, effective program in dealing with AIDS, never forgetting the basic human rights of the individuals involved.

Timothy Brace
Committee to Preserve
Our Sexual and Civil Liberties
San Francisco

Boycott Petri's

★ What can the gay community do to stop these senseless attacks from punks while the business community just stands by and lets it happen? The manager of Petri's refused to call the police. How many "skinheads" shop at Petri's? Very few, I imagine.

Petri's should be aware that a large part of its business comes from the gay community and perhaps a boycott of their supermarket is in order.

Please pursue this matter. It is necessary for businesses to be held responsible for what happens in their establishments.

Larry M. Purl
San Francisco

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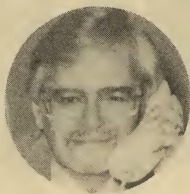
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LETTERS

The Grouch that Stole Christmas

★ Perhaps Teri Gruenwald, the Jewish lesbian who
hates, among other things, the Christmas tree at Harvey
Milk Plaza, will feel less offended when she learns that
the "holiday tree," as *B.A.R.*, so euphemistically puts
it, was a hoary pagan European custom which Chris-
tians adopted only relatively recently. But even the
pagan custom has antecedents in the customs of the an-
cient Egyptians, Chinese, and (yes, it's true!) Hebrews.
So I think that the tree in the plaza is safely pagan.

But even if it were a Christian symbol (how many
of us, other than Gruenwald, think of Christ when we
see a Christmas tree?), so what? How petty can you
be, Gruenwald? Save your guns for truly evil men such
as Falwell, Quinn, and Gorbachev, and enjoy this
harmless little tree. Your anti-Christianism offends this
atheist just as much as anti-Semitism.

Don't be such a grouch. Merry Christmas, Teri!

Robert E. Edwards
San Francisco

Two Great Guys

★ May I take this time to publicly thank two activists
of Santa Clara County for their continued support, time,
energy and caring for their fellow human beings—Sal
Accardi of the Watergarden Baths in San Jose and Jon
Snell of Desperados Bar in Campbell.

Every gay person in the southern Peninsula should
be grateful that people such as Sal and Jon are supply-
ing such excellent role models for the gay community.

The Christmas Eve celebration at Desperados was
exceptional. Jon seems to never stop giving. The
Watergarden has spared no expense to provide a com-
fortable, classy and exceptional recreational center and
baths.

Thanks, Jon and Sal, for the thousands of dollars
you have donated to various gay civil rights causes and
the untold number of hours you have both donated per-
sonally to help others. Whatever rewards you don't get
now will surely be yours in the next life. I am proud
to say I know you both. God bless you.

Dean Tomich
San Jose

Another Reason for Being Gay

★ Oh, so Mr. David W. Jones states in his letter
(*B.A.R.*, Dec. 191: "The reason I am gay is that I am
unable to be stupid and mean."

A high-minded sentiment indeed! I am by no means
stupid, though I am a little mean. But then again, my
roommate is incredibly stupid but hasn't got a mean
streak in him! And then there are our friends and ac-
quaintances who have varying levels and degrees of
meanness, stupidity, jealousy, petty-mindedness,
possessiveness, and all the other foibles and failures of
not only being gay, but human as well.

The reason I am gay is that I have the strength, for-
titude, courage and stamina to be able to put up with
and suffer my gay friends and the gay scene in general.

A Happy New Year to us all, and that probably
means to most of us the usual goddamn bullshit we'll
have to survive!

Allan B. Cahir
San Francisco

'Gay' Should Never Be a Noun

★ In 1978, after the defeat of the Briggs Initiative
against gay teachers, I was invited to a meeting of No-
On-6 activists at Berkeley to plan a consolidation of
themselves into a single permanent gay rights society
for the East Bay.

This Berkeley meeting demonstrated that few leaders
were willing to relinquish their organized turfs for the
common good of one powerful East Bay organization.

I never returned to a second meeting. I gather no per-
manent organization ever developed at that time.

Far more discouraging even than this failure, however,
was the revelation of the profound differences between
gay men and women in both their conception of and
experience of societal oppression.

For the women experienced oppression was sexism.
For the men it was experienced homophobia. The men
and women present simply spoke different languages.

Since that meeting, largely through the agency of
published books on homosexuality and of informative
reports in the local Bay Area gay press, I have become
increasingly sensitive to the physical and psychological
violence of homophobia, as an experienced social evil
in my own life and in the lives of the gay men and women
whom I have been able to observe.

Perhaps as more and more gay women become vis-
ible in American society, gay women will see that
homophobia is the overriding common denominator
that both defines and unifies gay men and gay women
as a social, cultural, and sexual minority within
American society.

Gay women need to make a choice: Which is the
greater of the two oppressors in their lives, sexism or
homophobia?

Let us hope that most gay women will cast their
primary lot, as co-equals, with gay men in the socially
just struggle to liberate both homosexual and heterosex-
ual men and women from the deeply oppressive social
evil of homophobia.

Gay women should refrain from linguistically defin-
ing their gay identity by the use of the separate descrip-
tion "lesbian." As feminists they should demand co-
inclusion under the joint descriptive word "gay."

Spoken and written standard English is increasingly
segregating us from one another. "Gay" is increasingly
being used to mean exclusively "homosexual male."

This tragic development should be terminated in its
budding. The word "lesbian" should be discarded as
discordant to the goals of the Gay Liberation Move-
ment.

Homosexual men and women should permanently
embrace each other linguistically under the commonality
of the beautiful and soul-lifting description "gay."

Furthermore, as gay men and women, we need to
insist—and to insist continuously—among ourselves
and with heterosexual persons that the word "gay" is
never socially acceptable as a noun, but only as an
adjective.

Gay men and women jointly share with heterosex-
ual men and women a common birthright as "men"
or "women." To use "gay" as a noun dehumanizes us
because it denies our humanity by equating us with
our sexuality. We are excluded thereby from our digni-
ty as human beings.

Language is crucial because of its profundity as sym-
bol. By describing ourselves as "gay men" and "gay
women," we symbolize that men and women stand
united together as co-equals in the authentic social
minority of the gay community.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro

Let Healing Spirit Work

★ Accolades to Jerry Carlson and the L.A. Gay Men's
Chorus for having the courage to fight for their name.
The American Choral Director Association convention
should be a meeting of professionals who respect the
dignity of every group whom they ask to perform at their
functions. To extend an invitation to this choir with the
proviso that they drop the word "Gay" from their bill-
ing and publicity is just rude.

Sister Sharon Breden from Star of the Sea Convent
in San Francisco, president of the Association's western
division, claimed that the reason is that the Associa-
tion is "so closely tied in with school systems across the
country . . . You can imagine that the feeling toward
gays in some parts of the country is far different than
in California." And, "We have already received letters
from hundreds of people 'outraged' that we are even talk-
ing to them [gays]."

All the more reason to keep the name as it stands!
Imagine the damage that could have been done if Irish
or Italian Catholic choirs during the turn of the cen-
tury dropped their identifying adjectives in submission
to the prevalent bigotry. Music has always been
seen as healing; let that healing spirit work.

Bob Nelson
San Francisco

It's Like a Chicken Voting for Col. Sanders

★ As you know, there will be an off year election this
November. It is very important.

I would hope that my gay brothers and sisters will
register and vote en masse!

But gays must be practical, and know that the
Republican party (the party of the rich and big business)
have now been taken over by the Fascistic right. So there
is no choice but to vote a Democratic ticket, although
they too have faults.

Any gay, or any thinking person for that matter, that
votes a Republican ticket would be like a Jew voting
for Adolf Hitler, a chicken voting for Col. Sanders, or
a black voting for the Imperial Wizard of the KKK.

It's true when it is said "The Masses are Asses" and
"Those people who forget history are doomed to repeat
it."

Make no mistake, George Bush is now courting the
far right and Jerry Falwell and other "Religious Nazis"
for the 1988 presidential elections.

Don't forget what will happen if the Supreme Court
is shifted to the right. We can all kiss the few gains we
have made over the past 15 years down the drain.

Sheldon Myman
Oakland

Subtle Homophobia

★ Today I was half-way through the long check-out line
at Tower Records on Columbus Ave. with five copies
of the record "That's What Friends Are For," when the
significance of where I found the records hit me. It was
right in between the single "Sun City" with a sign that the
proceeds benefit the anti-apartheid movement, and
the single "USA For Africa" with a sign that the pro-
ceeds help fight world hunger. On the back of "That's
What Friends Are For" was a note saying that the pro-
fits from the record go to AIDS research, yet there was
blatantly no acknowledgement of this fact in the store.

I took this as being a subtle form of homophobia and
put all five copies back and left the store. While some
people might say I am being too sensitive, I knew that
I couldn't buy them with a clear conscience. There
comes a time when one has to speak out to get things
to change. Until we do, things will go on as they are.
If you see an injustice, speak out and let others know.
As a cohesive community, we have great power.

And to Tower Records: I won't be back.

Richard L. Peard
San Francisco

LETTERS

Let's Hear It For Sex

★ I would not make light of the subject for I too know envy with my 6" after reading of "Dr." Steve Perkins (9½ soft) and the 8, 9, 10, 12 and even 13½ on the back pages of the *Bay Area Reporter*. But then I am not out to enslave anyone because of their penis superiority.

I am sure it is entirely a different can of worms when the 6" has shrunk to a half-a-pinkie, hiding away from it all. But this is no reason to canonize a man who is down for a count. When a man, one of those things with a cock and balls and sensitive prostate, gets a bad case of jock itch, we do not say, "It is a person with jock itch." (And the social workers when they shorten it to PWJI) by the same token, when a man has taken on one of the big ones we should not then cut off his balls and say, "He is a person with AIDS, a PWA." This is crap for the social workers, the people managers, the busy bodies, the penis envy crowd. For us run-of-the-mill homosexuals, it should always be: "He is a man . . ." Let those who are without the necessary appendages to qualify pick out their own nice-nice words.

Reading through the pages of *B.A.R.*, I sometimes wonder how much it takes to convince the majority of same-sex lovers that they really don't need counselling or "therapy" or "support" but more just very simple sex action.

It is past due that we put sex back in homoSEXual.

Guy Strait
San Francisco

Drugs and AIDS

★ David Black, writing in the Special Double Issue of *Rolling Stone*, wonders about the slowdown in the increase in AIDS. In his article, *The Story of the Year*, he writes, "But perhaps the statistics are not lying. What if host factors—i.e., how resistant or vulnerable individuals are to infections—are as important as exposure to the virus in whether or not someone gets AIDS? What if the disease is exhausting those who are especially susceptible. Susceptibility may have as much to do with drug use as with sexual practice. Seventy-nine percent of all AIDS cases seem to be related to drug abuse—not just sharing needles but using any substance that might suppress the immune system."

We live in such a drug culture that no one is educating us against the dangers of drug abuse as it pertains to AIDS. No one is telling us to keep our immune system strong by taking our vitamins, by getting plenty of exercise and sleep. I believe this kind of instruction should be stressed almost as much as the sexual guidelines. Also, what is wrong with hitting the sack with a hundred guys as long as you follow the safe sex guidelines?

George Birimisa
San Francisco

But Why Eddie Murphy?

★ Maybe with your investigative prowess and experience you can answer something for me (and my friends) which has been bugging me for months.

I attended the "So Many Men" New Year's Eve party at the GiftCenter and it was marvelous as usual, but when they played Eddie Murphy's hit record, I became rather disgusted because I've been boycotting him and Donna Summers since they both made their repulsive remarks on their respective HBO specials.

I know that Eddie Murphy apologized in the gay papers, but I don't know if he ever apologized in the non-gay papers and this is what makes the difference to me. If he only apologized for his tacky remarks about AIDS patients to the gay papers, he was only doing it to cover his ass and keep our gay dollars. Could you please publish an accurate response to this question? Many of us would greatly appreciate it. I'm willing to forgive him if he in fact did the right thing.

But if he did not apologize in the non-gay papers, then maybe you can elicit an apology from the producers of "So Many Men."

Dean Tomich
San Jose

Muddy Waters

★ On a friend's suggestion recently, I rented a videotape of John Waters' film *Desperate Living*. I found this movie repugnant, offensive and a gross insult to our lesbian sisters. The film portrays lesbians as grotesque, neurotic caricatures with a deep hatred for men and their sexual organs.

Filmmaker John Waters, who has made megabucks with his other underground, sleazy films *Pink Flamingos*, *Female Trouble*, *Mondo Trasho* (ad nauseum) has managed to elevate cinematic garbage to a high form of art, as there seems to be an audience for this type of movie, unfortunately.

I am not a prude and do like some comedy or "camp" in gay and lesbian-oriented films. However, Waters' movies go to outer extremes with his irrational depiction of gay transvestites and lesbians in a nether world filled with depression, mental illness, bizarreness, repugnance and self-inflicted pain. Just witness a scene in *Desperate Living* wherein a mannish lesbian, who has had a sex-change operation, uses scissors to cut off his/her newly attached penis because of his/her lover's aversion to the male sex organ.

The film also degrades and insults black lesbians and heterosexuals. In one scene, a neurotic wife murders her husband and becomes a kinky lesbian. Another scene shows a naked, grossly overweight, black lesbian making love to a paranoid, schizophrenic wife who has also killed her husband. The movie is saturated with cannibalism, fascism, incest and the partaking of dead

rats and dogs at the dinner table, and it goes on and on and on . . .

Waters' main aberration (or fetish, if you will), for all that is negative, ugly, bizarre and repugnant in the human condition, certainly raises questions about the mental state of his own psyche.

I am writing to Continental Video, distributor of *Desperate Living*, to express my outrage about such trash. We don't need negative films of this type to further feed the fires of hatred and alienation against the gay and lesbian community.

Ed Dollack
San Francisco

What's Next, Judge McConnell?

★ By issuing a new order (Nov. 8), San Diego Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell says no more visits for Brian Batey with either his mother Betty Batey or his father Frank. The Judge gave no indication by her written order when visits might be resumed. She cited poor grades in school for her grounding of the youth who was kept out of school by his mother and pentecostal church members for a 19-month period that ended in April, 1984.

The judge also kept Brian in a religious school, despite the protests of members of the San Diego Probation Department and Court Counseling Service who investigated the Midway Baptist School earlier this year. The court-appointed representatives had reported to the court that the school offered no special education courses or tutoring for which Brian was in prescribed need of following his abduction because his mother did not want him living with his gay dad, as another San Diego Judge had ordered in 1982.

And, after placement in two San Diego Juvenile Court Schools, over the protest of other court officers, Judge McConnell only allowed Brian to attend public school after 11 months of attempts by myself and officers of the court funded by the County Treasury.

Judge McConnell has continued to ignore recommendations by personnel she and other San Diego judges have appointed in this, her effort to acquiesce to virtually every demand made by attorneys for Tim and Beverly LaHaye and Betty Batey. The LaHayes are executives with a number of religious right organizations that became involved in efforts to fight my having been awarded custody as a gay father.

My son's placement, education and entire well-being have been hedged and inadequately supervised because of Judge McConnell's mishandling of this case and misapplication of California Juvenile Code Sections which clearly state that Brian should not be held a ward in San Diego County—where he was not a resident by virtue of the 1982 custody order Judge McConnell stated was "valid" in open court on Oct. 23, 1984 and during a 6½ week challenge of the 1982 custody order by the LaHaye organization attorneys.

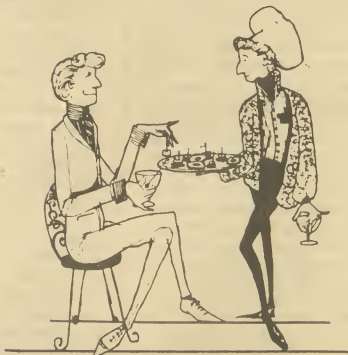
Judge McConnell's decision, last week, to deprive my son of contact with either of his parents was made without consulting professionals from the psychological community who are actively involved in this case. It is yet another example of prejudice and homophobia on the part of a judge who—out of respect for the law and a child's natural rights—should have voluntarily removed herself from this case months ago.

Her bungling of this case has cost my son and the County of San Diego much. And I shudder to think about how this kind of abuse of a public trust may be affecting other youths and their parents who appear before this same judge in court.

Although I have asked that records in my custody case be unsealed to release some facts to counter all the fiction that has been spread in this case by religious opportunists, Judge McConnell has denied my request. I did not ask that the concurrent juvenile case be publicly disclosed. However, I am as aware as Judge McConnell may be, that it would be embarrassing to the judge if the public were made privy to proceedings McConnell has kept closed by combining the juvenile matter with the custody matter. It is a strategy that has only helped her exercise prejudice and homophobia in the tradition of witch hunts and inquisitions.

Today, it's gay parents who are losing their children to the bigots. Tomorrow, judges such as McConnell may circumvent the same laws to deprive the children of other minorities of parental love, education and responsible care. I hope not. On Sept. 19, the judge wrote me "Brian is doing well now."

Frank Batey
San Diego



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False Assumptions

by Randy Schell

In the Quick Hits described below, there are some trends which will become apparent to the reader. For instance, the first three Quick Hits reveal that the suspects are all juveniles. The reader will note that the suspects number between four and seven. Our information indicates that these juveniles range in age from 15-18 years, are all white, and in two of the reports operate in the area of Church and Market Streets.

Our reason for reporting this is two-fold—to report what has already happened and to advise you to carefully survey your surroundings if you happen to be in that area.

The problems with reporting trends such as these is that it can lead the reader into some false assumptions. For instance, one could believe that all persons who assault gay people are youth. This is a false assumption. One could also believe that all victims of anti-gay violence are gay. This assumption is also false. Nor is it true that all victims of anti-gay violence are white, are men or only are victimized in areas with heavy gay populations.

The reality is that anti-gay violence is perpetrated by all races, all ages and their victims include all sexual, racial and geographical boundaries.

Another false assumption is that CUAV's services are meant only to serve the gay victim of anti-gay violence. In fact, CUAV assists victims of rape, domestic violence, robbery and other

crimes which can occur any time or place in San Francisco. Nor is it true that CUAV's focus is geared only for victims. Part of our program is prevention which includes safety presentations, neighborhood alerts and safety monitors for large public events.

CUAV also has an outreach program reaching other groups such as homeless youth and seniors. Finally, there is the CUAV Speaker's Bureau which addresses youth within the schools in San Francisco on issues related to demystifying homosexuality.

Prevention, education and advocacy is what we are composed of. Our message however is singular: Carry a whistle, report a crime. You might make a difference in someone else's life.

QUICK HITS

14th/Church: The victim was walking at the intersection of Market and Sanchez Streets. Six or seven suspects who were all juveniles began following the victim. Fearing for his safety, the victim turned around as one of the suspects made a threatening gesture with his fist. The victim began to back away from the suspects but they continued to come toward him.

The victim took out his mace and sprayed the leader. The suspects backed away momentarily, but then regrouped and came toward the victim. The victim was chased into a bar on Market Street and then to a

(Continued on page 14)

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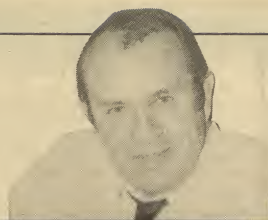
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POLITICS & POKER



Previewing the November Elections Line-Up

All eyes will soon be on the November election as the Democrats, with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley as their candidate, they hope to knock off the favored George Deukmejian in the governor's race. And they pin their hopes on Leo McCarthy holding on to the lieutenant governor's office. They also hope to hang on to the other statewide offices that are held by the Democrats.

Deukmejian, who defeated Bradley for the state's top office in 1982 by a mere 52,000 votes, has to be considered the favorite. But McCarthy, the highest Democrat in the state government, appears to be headed for a tough re-election battle. Only last week, Sonoma Assemblyman Don Sebastiani, a millionaire, who had announced his candidacy for Lt. Gov., appeared to be backing away from a fight for his party's nomination with former Lt. Gov. Mike Curb, another Republican millionaire. The conservative Sebastiani now intends to seek the GOP nomination for state controller, now held by Democrat Ken Cory.

Against the incumbent McCarthy, Curb, with the support of the party behind him, has to be given an even chance of unseating the Democrat. Feeling that they have an excellent chance of re-electing their governor, the Republicans are prepared to put big money into the McCarthy-Curb race, in hopes of taking the job in the event Deukmejian decides to seek a spot on the Republican national ticket in 1988.

Before he can take on Democrat McCarthy, however, Curb will have to get past fellow Republican Bruce Nestande, an Orange County supervisor, in the June primary.

In other statewide races, attorney General John Van de Kamp, State Treasurer Jesse Unruh, and Secretary of State March Fong Eu have to be favored to keep their jobs over their Republican opponents, all of whom have yet to be chosen in the June primary. Sacramento political observers will tell you, however, that Ken Cory, Controller, could be in for a political battle with Assemblyman Sebastiani, assuming the Sonoma legislator wins the June nomination. Sebastiani is the heir to his family's wine company fortune and is expected to spend a fortune on the race.

While the Democrats gear up for a strong run at Deukmejian, and concentrate on retaining statewide offices they now hold, it appears that the Republicans might once again make the mistake of nominating a far-right candidate for U.S. Senator against Democrat Cranston. That would increase the chances of the veteran Cranston winning re-election in November. California Republicans are famous for nominating right-wingers (e.g., Rafferty, Richardson, Gann) for office only to go on and lose in the general election. The conservative wing of the state Republican party always seems to win the battle in June, but lose the war in November. Things don't seem much different this year with the likes of Davis, Danemeyer, Antonovich, et. al, in the GOP battle.



Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy

Moderate voters in this state consistently refuse to support ultra-conservative Republicans in the general election. GOP candidates need some of those votes to win, but the Republicans in this state seem more intent on winning ideological battles than elections. The party could once again nominate someone against Cranston that the majority of voters find too conservative to vote for.

The November election should center on the Deukmejian-Bradley race, and with the possible exception of Leo McCarthy, the Democrats should hold onto other statewide offices. Unless the Republicans choose a moderate like Rep. Ed Zschau, Sen. Alan Cranston can probably re-new the lease on his Georgetown apartment.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson and former First Lady Betty Ford will serve as co-chairs of a huge Evening with Friends fundraiser in San Diego on March 10 to benefit the San Diego AIDS Project and the American Foundation for AIDS Research (of which Elizabeth Taylor is chair). The show features stars like Lily Tomlin and a host of others and will be held at San Diego's City Hall Convention and Performing Arts Center. It is expected to clear half a million dollars.

The San Francisco Republican party, which needs all the help it can get, recently won a well-known convert when former Sup. Terry Francois left the Democrats and joined the GOP.

Sacramento lawmakers will receive a salary increase this year from \$33,732 to \$37,105 (plus the car, credit cards, unlimited phone calls, etc.).

Willie Brown on Tom Bradley's chances of becoming governor: "I think he has a chance; he is my candidate, number one. Number two, I don't think much of this governor, and if the proper kind of campaign is conducted, Tom Bradley has a good chance of defeating George Deukmejian.

On Willie Brown's own future, the Speaker told the *California Journal* last week that "four years from now? Six years from now? Ten years from now? I still may be running this speakership. I will continue to do this as long

as I enjoy it, and I'm still having lots and lots of fun."

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was a surprise featured guest at last night's over-crowded Thank You San Francisco party at the Opera House given by Board of Supervisors President John Molinari, a close friend and political supporter of Bradley's.

Paranoia is everywhere: if you watched the TV coverage closely last week of anti-apartheid activist Winnie Mandela snapping to the white arresting cops: "don't touch me, how do I know you don't have AIDS?"

Are you reading this Dianne? The city of Detroit just gave Mayor Coleman Young a raise to \$115,000 a year, making him the highest paid mayor in the country (N.Y.'s Koch is second at \$110,000, followed by Feinstein at \$107,000 annually).

It's number three on the latest singles chart, and the single "That's What Friends Are For," performed by Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight and Elton John, and written by Burt Bacharach, has so far raised \$500,000 for Elizabeth Taylor's American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Giving credence to a widely reported rumor, West Hollywood Mayor John Heilman and Mayor Pro-Tem Stephen Schulte wrote a letter to the respected Southern California gay paper *Update* recently urging its readers to stop using "poppers." They wrote, "Several recent research studies have indicated that poppers may increase an individual's risk of contracting AIDS or Kaposi's sarcoma. We are writing to urge all gay men to refrain from using poppers as inhalants."

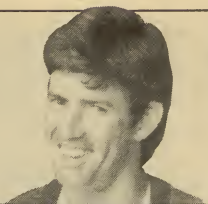
Vacationing in Key West, Florida, long-time gay activists Kevin Wadsworth and Paul Johnson write that "It's really great to go out to bars and dances where gay men, lesbians, and straights have fun together, quite different from the exclusion and differential attitudes so often displayed within our own San Francisco gay community." I'll second that opinion.

Dallas star Linda Gray is the

(Continued on next page)

Mike Hippler

ON THE OFF BEAT



Notes on a Murder Trial

Part One of Two Parts

I don't know why I wanted to attend the O'Connell murder trial so badly. Maybe it was simply because I sensed a good story. Maybe it was because I, too, was a victim of flag-bashing once. And maybe it was because, like so many others in San Francisco's gay community, I was outraged that a life had been so casually snuffed out.

Whatever the reason, for three weeks I sat in Department 24 of the Hall of Justice taking notes, paying careful attention to the proceedings of the first murder trial I've ever attended.

Like nearly everyone else I know, I was incensed when I heard that the defense attorneys were systematically excluding gay people from the jury. What right have they, I wondered. If a black man were the victim of a crime, they would never dare exclude blacks from the jury.

While I agreed with Attorney Tom Horn in the *B.A.R.*, that a citizen accused by the state of a crime "has the absolute right to one person who will be totally and unequivocally in his corner: his lawyer." That lawyer should do everything in his power to protect his client's rights by eliminating jurors with preconceived prejudices. But I resent the assumption by the defense attorneys that any gay man must automatically be prejudiced in this case.

True, many members of the gay community were "mad as hell" because of the condition of things generally and thus willing to string the bastards up by the balls. For example, during the jury selection, one defense attorney asked a potential juror, "Does my client look like a murderer to you?" One of the gay journalists present turned to me and said, "They all look guilty as hell to me. I wouldn't want to meet any one of them in a dark alley."

But even if the majority of the gay community felt the same, surely there were gay men in the jury pool who were capable of setting aside their own personal prejudices to consider only the evidence given in court. I cannot believe we are all incapable of rising above emotional ulterior motives.

On my first day in court, I was told, "Oh you can't sit on this side of the court. This is the defense side. The prosecution side is over here."

For a moment I thought I was at a wedding, where the guests are divided into friends of the bride and friends of the groom. But this was no wedding. On one side sat the lover of the man who was killed, members of the gay press, and interested members of the community. On the other side sat friends and relatives of the

accused—warring factions with diametrically opposing interests.

War indeed. It is an apt metaphor, for a trial is based on the clash of opposing interests, on the conflict of unbending wills. Although the entire purpose of a trial is the search for truth, there is no attempt at compromise here, no give or take, no admission or error. Truth is presented by defense and prosecution solely in shades of black and white, and it is up to the jury to find the subtle shades of gray.

I find this disturbing, for it offends my sense of what is reasonable and just. I believe in compromise, in bending a little, in giving way when called for. Yet, perhaps I am being naive to suppose it could work this way in a courtroom.

After all, a defense lawyer can't say, "Well, I suppose you're right. Here's my client. Hang the son of a bitch." But it does seem that something is lost when the goal is not truth but victory and when truth is discovered not by opening doors but in spite of closing them.

Closed doors. It is amazing what the jury is not allowed to know. In this case, the jury never did find out that John O'Connell and his companion were not the only people attacked that night. The four from Vallejo are also accused of assaulting a number of people on Polk Street that night. They face a series of separate assault and battery charges as a result.

Had the jury known this, they would certainly have been much more likely to believe that the O'Connell attack was the result of deliberate malice and not some freak occurrence. But they could not know, for they were supposed to consider only these particular murder charges, and knowledge of any other criminal involvement was considered prejudicial.

Given these rules, it is amazing what the jury was allowed to hear. Time after time, the defense tried to block crucial evidence, such as testimony by the two key witnesses concerning statements made by the defendants as to why there were going to San Francisco in the first place—to beat up some faggots.

Had the prosecution not been able to offer this evidence, the jury might never have known that the assaults were gay-related. Luckily, the judge saw fit to overrule defense objections at key moments. But there were far too many close calls like this one, calls that if decided differently might have resulted in an entirely different verdict.

I didn't see much of the trial coverage on television, but one thing I did see bothered me. When Andrew Woodward,

O'Connell's companion that night, testified that he could not identify his attackers as the four men sitting in the courtroom, the media played it up as a major victory for the defense. It certainly was dramatic (and how we all love drama), but significant?

Hardly. What the newsmen failed to mention was that two other witnesses and a sworn statement by one of the defendants placed the defendants at the scene of the crime, so Woodward's testimony was unnecessary. Also, the newsmen failed to mention why Woodward claimed he could not identify his attackers (although he had done so at the pre-trial hearing)—he was nervous, confused, and scared.

Fortunately, whatever the media did or did not do could not affect the outcome of the trial, for the jury was under strict orders not to read or to watch anything concerning the case. Although I am no fan of censorship, of limiting sources of information, at least I am beginning to realize why in the courtroom different rules sometimes apply.

M. Hippler

Next week: Mike Hippler discusses the verdict of the O'Connell trial, his reactions, and the significance of the case.



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Wayne Friday

(Continued from previous page)

latest to join the homophobia syndrome, telling listeners that she believes AIDS is a warning from God to show "what happens when moral boundaries fall."

Political publicity stunts are fine, but one has to wonder whether Assemblyman Art Agnos' highly-touted rent control "rally," to defeat A.B. 433, an anti-rent control measure now before the state senate, might have made more sense on the steps of the state capital in Sacramento than on San Francisco's City Hall steps.

Joining his fellow clergymen in leaping headlong into foreign affairs, is famed TV evangelist Jimmy Lee Swaggart. Like Jerry Falwell, he's an admirer of South Africa's apartheid. He told readers of his widely-distributed *Evangelist* magazine last week that while the white majority has made "some mistakes," apartheid is infinitely better than the alternative—majority rule.

Like Falwell, Swaggart says that majority rule can never be allowed to happen because if apartheid were eliminated, "the white minority would disintegrate, the blacks would immediately start to fight among themselves," plunging South Africa into "a bloodbath of unprecedented proportions. Hundreds of thousands would be killed, and the greatest country in Africa would be destroyed." There you have it straight from the men who talk with God.

As for Big Brother Jerry, he announced last week that he is forming, and will serve as president of, a new political action committee, the Liberty Federation, which will serve to promote those causes given a bad name by

the defunct Moral Majority. On homosexuality Falwell told a Washington news conference that the Federation, much like the Moral Majority, will "of course, urge civil rights for all Americans, but will never support special privileges for certain citizens (such as homosexuals seek), the same position we have held for the past seven years."

Falwell, of course, took the occasion at the Washington Press Club to blame Moral Majority woes on the media, attack both abortion and homosexuality, and to announce that his new "Liberty Federation" has placed itself solidly behind the '88 candidacy of George Bush for President.

Southern California Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler in town this week to announce that she is going after the GOP nomination to run against Sen. Alan Cranston. Fiedler has raised a lot of money so far and has to be considered among the "top tier" of Republican candidates for the June primary.

Author Christopher Isherwood died in Santa Monica this past weekend. Isherwood, one of America's best-known writers, was proud of his homosexuality and came out as a gay man early in his career. He once said that "I have written about homosexuality in my novels and in taking up the cause of one minority, that of homosexuals against the dictatorship of heterosexuals, I have spoken out for all minorities." Having only met Isherwood once, I cannot claim to have known him, but I admired him and his contribution. Even at the advanced age of 81, he went much too soon.

W. Friday

Speaker's Bureau Training

Community United Against Violence needs volunteers to participate in the very critical work of educating youth about the reality of gay life. The involvement of youth in anti-gay violence is a documented fact. CUAV's Speaker's Bureau Program seeks to offer high school age youth an opportunity to confront their fears and myths before

those fears translate into violence on the streets.

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WILL SNYDER

Netherlands Grants Spousal Benefits To Gay Diplomats

AMSTERDAM—The Netherlands became the first nation in the world to approve equal entitlement for gay and non-gay members of the Dutch diplomatic corps and their partners.

The new policy takes into account a gay Dutch diplomat's spouse when moving and traveling expenses are allocated. Gay Dutch diplomats and their partners will be entitled to a 40 percent salary supplement, the same that is given to married couples.

The action came because of a petition sent to the Dutch foreign minister last year. One of the petition's organizers told *DeGay Krant*, a Dutch gay paper, that his group will attempt to get equal accreditation for gay couples in the foreign service.

—New York Native

NY Health Agency Bans Gay Sex Permanently

NEW YORK—Gay groups are shaking their heads and wondering: is the state of New York, one of the usual bastions of liberalism in the United States, developing a sodomy law? This question came up when the Empire State's Public Health Council (PHC) voted overwhelmingly in late December to permanently install regulations calling for

the closure of public facilities where anal intercourse and fellatio take place.

Gay community leaders were outraged that IV-drug users or people indulging in vaginal sex had not received the same focus in the spread of AIDS as areas such as bathhouses did. PHC chair Dr. Morton Hyman said that "limiting the language of the regulation to one form of high-risk activity (gay sex) does not imply that it is the only form of high risk activity."

Hyman attempted to play down gay leaders' complaints of potential de facto sodomy laws. "The Public Health Council does not seek nor by implication does it advocate reimposition of sodomy laws or the criminalization of private sexual activity between consenting adults."

Hyman, in a stab at gay community fears, said that "it is deplorable that some have used these proceedings to feed the flames of homophobia."

Hyman made no move to include exclusively heterosexual acts in the proposal.

—New York Native

FDA Approves Ribavirin for Limited Use

WASHINGTON—Ribavirin, a drug which can be used to treat AIDS, has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for limited use against an infection in infants. Many people in



Gary MacDonald was 'delighted' with the appointment of lobbyist Judith Wortman by the AIDS Action Council. (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Action Council Hires Woman as Lobbyist

Washington—The AIDS Action Council (AAC) has hired a well-known health activist as its main lobbyist in Washington, D.C. Gary MacDonald the AAC's executive director, announced that he had hired Judith S. Wortman to represent the organization on Capitol Hill.

"We're absolutely delighted to have her on board," said MacDonald, who referred to Wortman as a "highly experienced" lobbyist.

Wortman had spent the previous one and a

half years as a lobbyist and a manager for the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Before that, she did lobbying, writing and research for a number of health and educational institutions dating back to the mid-1960's. Prior to her position with the AIDS Action Council, Wortman served as director of federal relations for the California State University system's Washington, D.C. office.

—Washington Blade

AIDS prevention organizations are hoping this small breakthrough may lead to expanded use for AIDS victims.

The FDA approved ribavirin for infants who have respiratory syncytial, a common virus which can prove fatal in premature infants. Although the disease is not related to AIDS, the drug is one of several that may be effective in treating AIDS.

—Philadelphia Gay News

Billy Graham Says AIDS Not The Wrath of God

WASHINGTON—In direct contrast to Jerry Falwell, Rev. Billy Graham refused to take a judgmental position on gays and AIDS. Graham told a group of Washington reporters that he doesn't agree with other religious leaders that AIDS is the wrath of God on gays.

Graham said he believes no one is "in a position to judge the intentions of the Lord."

Graham went on to say that "AIDS is a dread disease that we all should be working together to eradicate."

Graham's remarks were consistent with other statements he has made about gay people, according to Rev. Larry Uhrig, a Metropolitan Community Church pastor in Washington. Uhrig said that he has "never heard Graham attack homosexuality or gays."

A spokesman for Graham, Larry Ross, said Graham's remarks go along with statements he made recently at Wheaton College, a small church-oriented college in Wheaton, Ill. Ross said that Graham told the Wheaton audience that "we should love people whoever they may be," and that individuals should not "pick out homosexuality" for criticism but should concentrate on sins such as greed, jealousy and lust.

Graham was in Washington to meet with Mayor Marion Barry

while preparing for a Washington Crusade in April.

—Washington Blade

FCC Rules in Cameron's Favor

WASHINGTON—The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said recently that psychologist Paul Cameron did not violate FCC regulations with statements he made about gay people on a Philadelphia talk show in August.

When Cameron was a guest on W WDB-TV's *Les Kinsolving Show*, he said that gay people murder animals while having sex and ejaculate on their customers' food in restaurants. He also said that people with AIDS should be "shackled" with beepers.

The Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force and the Philadelphia AIDS Task Force filed a complaint against Cameron, charging that he violated the FCC's Personal Attack Rule and Fairness Doctrine.

However, the FCC disagreed with the Philadelphia gay groups. The FCC decision, signed by Fairness Branch Chief Milton Gross, said Cameron was innocent because he didn't attack any specific person or identifiable group. It was also pointed out that W WDB covered itself by offering contrasting points of view in different broadcasts.

Marie Inyang, an attorney for both groups, said the two groups plan to carry the protest to higher state courts. If necessary, according to Inyang, she said she will take the case to a higher federal court.

—Au Courant of Philadelphia

Polish Paper Favors Gay Club

WARSAW—A leading Polish Communist magazine has called for an establishment of a gay social organization. The publication, *Polityka*, feels this is one way to combat fear of AIDS after four cases of the disease were reported in Poland.

"Authorities should set up a group for gay men to provide alternatives to secretive sexual contacts which are spreading AIDS," the magazine was quoted as saying. "This form of providing facilities for homosexuals and meeting their needs in comfort and safety would enable the government in turn to exercise some control over this social group."

The move was considered a bold one. Although homosexuality among consenting adults is legal in Poland, it is looked upon with a raised eyebrow. Other Eastern European countries, such as the Soviet Union and Romania, take much harsher views of gay life.

—Au Courant of Philadelphia and Gay Life of Chicago

PA Gay Group Nets \$7000 in Corporate Gifts

RADNOR, PA.—Two Pennsylvania corporations have contributed a total of \$7,000 to the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF) according to Rita Addressa, PLGTF's executive director.

Mel Heifetz, owner of Key West and Bloomies, gave the PLGTF a check for \$5,000 recently to help defray costs for general civil rights programs. Shortly after that gift, the Sun Company of Radnor added \$2,000 to PLGTF's kitty.

These actions came after the United Way failed to acknowledge PLGTF's tax-exempt status. Since the United Way's ruling, 35 people have pledged a total of \$6,479. The PLGTF has also raised an extra \$5,100 in phone contributions. Addressa said the group's goal is to raise \$20,000 to cover costs for education, litigation and media monitoring.

—Au Courant of Philadelphia

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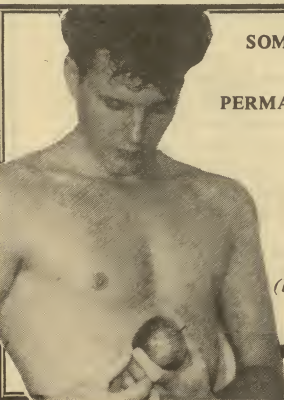
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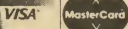


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Community

(Continued from page 1)

"We've gone through this evolution of hiding from mommy and daddy, from God, from whomever," said Sup. Harry Britt in describing the creation of San Francisco's gay community. "For people of my generation the closet is part of our background. Then came the ghetto where we learned about gay anger and gay pride and the next step was taking that into the mainstream. What's really been happening is not gay rights but lesbians and gays affecting the straight world, engaging Christians and Jews vis-a-vis their homophobic history, the same in business and the military," said Britt.

"We're not just saying don't hurt us. We're trying to interact as adults who are effective and powerful and have something to bring to the system. Gay activists today are teachers," he added.

What about AIDS? "AIDS is obviously out there," Britt continued. "As long as the epidemic is out there that has to be our absolute priority, nothing else can compare to that. But the AIDS epidemic came along when we were changing already in terms of finding increased gratification besides the gratifications of the gay ghetto. There is nothing wrong with those gratifications but we also can be leaders of society."

Britt said that rewards in the past available to gay people are increasingly available now, such as being able to function on the job, being able to operate socially in the larger community. "Many of the gratifications that human beings get have been denied us," said Britt. "Sex is a wonderful and important treasure but it is not the only one."

Although AIDS remains at the top of the agenda, Britt saw other pressing issues to be dealt with as well. "I wish we would move away from all the strategies we have based on weakness or shame and move toward looking at ourselves as strong. We have so much fear left over from the closet," he said. "We need to experience and act on pride. We need to show it to the world in terms of the Gay Olympics and the Gay Film Festival. We need to get rid of our fear—not our fear of AIDS, that's natural—but our fear of homophobia."

RE-DEFINING COMMUNITY

According to *Chronicle* reporter Randy Shilts, "In the gay community we're starting to redefine what our community is about. The gay movement can no longer be defined as a sexual movement. Somewhere in the seventies we got off track, being gay came to mean living in a community where you could have unlimited sex. The bathhouse culture is dead. The heavily sexual overtones of the gay community are dead."

Shilts said he thought "Most gay people will survive the (AIDS) epidemic. The gay movement will survive and the gay community will survive. And those of us who survive will be supermen. We're going to be incredibly nurtured by this experience."

Pat Norman, coordinator of Lesbian/Gay Health Services for the City Health Department and a 1984 candidate for the Board of Supervisors, talked about changes in the gay movement from the end of the 1970's.

"I don't know if I would connect it with Harvey's assassination," Norman said referring to the 1978 slaying of Sup. Harvey Milk. "All movements changed around the end of the 70's—the women's movement, the peace movement, every kind of human rights movement changed. Most

people identified with the need to make more money and do more for themselves. It was the beginning of the Yuppies. I think a lot of reasons are involved and it also has a lot to do in the last four years with the AIDS epidemic. The focus is more on how to survive the epidemic and the move toward the right under Reagan," said Norman.

"All minorities have been stifled under this (Reagan) administration," said Norman who

and others who study social phenomenon, according to McBride, are staggered by the way this community has handled the epidemic.

"I feel very positive about the gay and lesbian community," she explained, "and our social value to this country. I think we're teaching this country a lot about living, about the difficulty of making life choices and about finding value in yourself and in your love when the rest of soci-

'the issue is whether we're going to take this new found knowledge of how to work with institutions and governments and once again focus it on the gay rights movement.'

—Greg Day

(Photo: Rink)



is a black single parent. "I see things becoming much clearer, people are beginning to see what has happened to us as a group. And we are building coalitions with the women's movement, labor, peace and anti-apartheid groups."

Norman said that she felt the gay community in San Francisco had become complacent before the outbreak of AIDS because of the unusual freedom enjoyed by gay people in this city. But she sees things changing for the better.

"We're beginning to understand that we're not going to be abused the way we were in the past, there is too much commitment to protect us from repressive and oppressive measures. For example, at the same time that we have people like Falwell calling for quarantine, we have people like Elizabeth Taylor and Ed Asner saying 'no you can't do that'."

The Golden Gate Business Association wields significant influence in gay and mainstream San Francisco with its 800 business and individual members and its associated philanthropic foundation. Laurie McBride, president of GGBA, also talked about changes.

"From 1982 through 1985 we've gone through shock, acceptance, depression, and anger. Collectively, we've gone through a lot of powerful emotions. Individually, we have had to confront issues of mortality usually left till later in life. A lot of things are changing in the gay community, a lot of reevaluation is going on. And I don't think anyone knows where this is going," she said.

"I see a movement toward a more qualitative lifestyle," McBride continued. "Are you really doing the things you want to be doing? Are you with the people you want to be with? People spend a lot of time looking not only for safe sex but for love and sharing."

REASONS FOR PRIDE

McBride saw surviving the crisis as a major goal for gay people in 1985. She talked about survival not only in terms of individuals but as it applied to the whole lesbian and gay community.

"We are survivors," McBride noted. "We wouldn't have made the life choices we made if we weren't survivors. Surviving and leading the nation out of this crisis has actually brought many of the gay leaders across the country to national standing."

McBride saw reasons for pride in the gay community's response to the AIDS crisis. Sociologists

the Shanti Project, the AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Fund, and Ward 5B at San Francisco General Hospital. And a lot of this work is being done with city taxpayer money."

Wolfred saw several areas where the community has begun to make strides even during the epidemic. To prevent discrimination against gay men by insurance companies, he foresees the building of coalitions with other minority groups who have also suffered discrimination at the hands of insurers.

BACKLASH

But a grimmer perspective was given by Ralph Payne, vice-president of Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, a member of the board of directors of the AIDS Foundation, and treasurer for Mobilization Against AIDS.

"I think it's almost in a state of paralysis," Payne said of the gay movement in San Francisco and nationally, "because of the tremendous toll of the AIDS crisis both personally and politically. AIDS has become the single most important issue facing our community and all others

have taken a back-burner. This began about a year ago, probably after the '84 election."

Payne is particularly worried about a looming tide of anti-gay backlash nationally.

"Clearly there is a need for national gay lobbying and organizing in a way that hasn't been necessary before because now it's not a question of gaining more advances for the community but of defending those which we have gained."

The threat to the community has to be approached on different fronts, Payne believes. But, "first of all we want to stop the damn disease. The government's criminal negligence has meant that the disease is out of the government's control. The community needs to be vigilant to make sure that everything that can be done is done to find a cure and a vaccination. That's just on AIDS. We also have to keep fighting these attacks on our civil rights. But the two go hand in hand. You can't defend civil rights without fighting the disease which is engendering the attacks."

That the backlash is already (Continued on next page)

'I think San Francisco at large is impressed by the way the gay community is taking care of its own.'

—Tim Wolfred

(Photo: Rink)



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Community

(Continued from previous page)

here, was also the message of Diane Christensen, director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), a city-funded agency whose goal is to end anti-gay violence in this city.

"We've had an 89 percent increase in the number of people who have been victimized over the last year," Christensen said. "It's the backlash against AIDS. It's here, it's happening. While we may be preventing institutions in San Francisco from lashing out against gay people, we can't prevent individual homophobes from attacking gay people," she said.

PAY OFF

While the crisis has taken its toll, there may be a pay off for the community.

"We've learned quite a bit," said Greg Day, issues chair for the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. "We've learned to present gay rights in the larger context of a life-threatening disease that potentially affects everyone. And because of AIDS, we have reach-

ed out and sought help from society as a whole. AIDS has made us more extroverted as a community. It's such a frightening disaster that it has distracted the focus of our movement from a more internal kind of dialogue," said Day.

"The issue is whether we're going to take this new found knowledge of how to work with institutions and governments and once again focus it on the gay rights movement," said Day. "We have issues like the inclusion of gay rights in the schools, for example. If our movement is going to continue to prosper we have to take the lessons learned from the AIDS crisis and apply them to the full range of lesbian and gay rights. We have to go on with the full range of issues that are important to us as a civil rights movement and as a community."

While efforts on many fronts may have abated, the energy of this community has been concentrated on AIDS. But the net effect may be an expansion of the gay and lesbian community and an infusion of new skills and new allies to meet long-term problems.

C. Linebarger

Petrini's

(Continued from page 4)

lance and called the police. They (the police) called the ambulance," said Franz.

In light of the assault, Franz said the store was putting on a new security guard at night. "It can't hurt," said Franz. "Also the security guard who was on duty that night was in the drug store (when the assault took place). That's why he wasn't there. From now on we'll have him tell us where he is. We'll use a beeper if necessary."

Randy Schell, of Community United Against Violence, had problems with the way the police originally handled the case. "I

certainly have questions based on what Matthew (Holloway) said on why the police haven't picked up anybody, if they know where these people live," said Schell.

"And I don't know why it took so long to get assigned," added Schell. "I was told that they had just got the report and assigned an inspector on Dec. 31." Ten days after the assault occurred.

While the police look for the assailants of Holloway and Johnson, many in the gay and lesbian community questioned Petrini's role in apparently failing to promptly call the police or an ambulance for almost ten to twenty minutes after the incident began.

C. Linebarger

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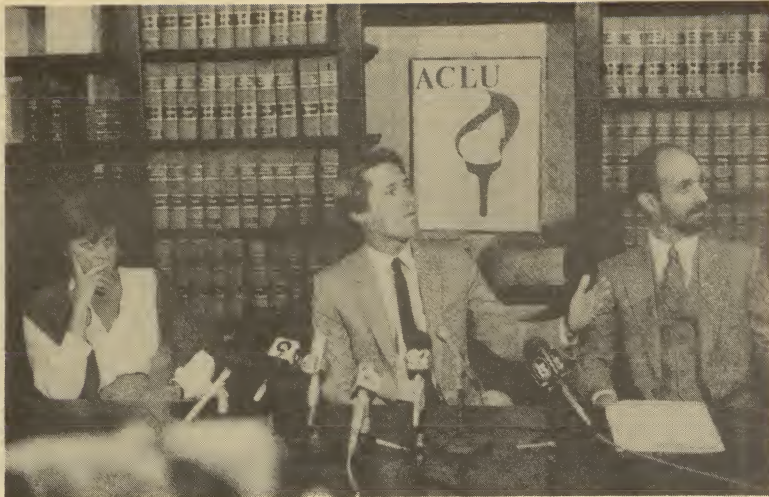
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ACLU staff attorney Susan McGreivy, plaintiff Richard Stanley, and ACLU volunteer attorney Steven T. Kelker. (Photo: Sandy Dwyer)

Big Brothers Sued On Discrimination

So. Calif. Organization Thinks Gays Unfit Role Models, Threat to Values

by Aslan Brooke and Sandy Dwyer

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU/SC) filed suit Dec. 23 against Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles accusing the organization of arbitrarily excluding homosexuals and bisexuals from volunteering as adult companions to fatherless boys.

The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by ACLU attorney Steven T. Kelker, ACLU/SC legal director Paul Hoffman and ACLU/SC staff attorney Susan McGreivy on behalf of Richard Stanley, alleges that by excluding gay and bisexual men Big Brothers has violated state and local anti-discrimination statutes under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act.

Stanley, 35, who, at a newsconference called by the ACLU, described himself as "neither exclusively heterosexual nor homosexual," first applied to participate in the Big Brothers program in July 1984. The suit alleges that in the course of a four-month application process, Stanley's bisexuality was mentioned to Virginia Brown, who was conducting interviews for Big Brothers.

Stanley said he was "very pointedly asked about my sexuality. I was candid." The suit states that Stanley was notified in writing the following November that he would not be considered for matching with a "little brother." Stanley then called Mark L. Wild, director of services for the 30-year-old private, nonprofit organization. Wild informed him that bisexual or homosexual men are excluded from consideration. Stanley then contacted the ACLU.

Stanley, a car salesman who said he holds a master's degree in photography, has traveled extensively, likes animals and was

himself raised in a single-parent environment. He said he felt he had a lot to offer a "little brother" and that the parent—not Big Brothers—should make the decision whether he would be a suitable volunteer companion. He added that the interview process "never got to the case of parents being uncomfortable [with his bisexuality]. It was Big Brothers of LA that was uncomfortable."

The suit specifically states that "the interests of all parties involved in the matching [of Stanley] with a 'Little Brother' are adequately safeguarded by the fact that all characteristics of a potential 'big brother' are disclosable to the parent of a potential 'little brother' prior to matching, and any matching is subject to the final approval of the parent," a point stressed by McGreivy at the news conference.

Although Richard Kline, president of Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles, did not return the B.A.R.'s telephone call, he did blast the ACLU in a

Dec. 26 opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times*. McGreivy termed his article "a homophobic piece of tripe." Kline wrote, "This holiday season may be one of the saddest over for thousands of fatherless boys in Southern California. These children crave a father figure to inspire them. Enter the American Civil Liberties Union to serve in the role of Christmas spoiler."

Kline went on to write that the ACLU suit "tragically challenges the very existence of Big Brothers and questions our ability to guide impressionable young boys toward traditional values and lifestyle."

Despite his emphasis on "traditional values," Kline did not address Stanley's charge several days earlier that "Ninety-eight percent of all child molestation is heterosexual—men molesting young girls. If Big Brothers is really interested in solving the problem of child molestation, and they wanted to do it by attacking class, the answer would be [that] the class to attack would be heterosexual men."

Ironically, one day after Kline's opinion piece, the *Times* printed a story on the conviction of Mark D. Yerkes, 28, a professional stunt man, for "sexually assaulting an emotionally disturbed 11-year-old boy assigned to be his 'little brother' by Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles." The story did not specify Yerkes' sexual orientation.

The ACLU suit asks the court to strike down the alleged discrimination and to issue a writ requiring the Big Brothers to accept Stanley for consideration. The suit also seeks minimal damages for Stanley for violation of his rights under the Unruh Act and for violation of the Los Angeles City Ordinance which prohibits sexual orientation discrimination.

Baths Owners to Regulate Sex Activity

INDIANAPOLIS—The Independent Gay Health Clubs of America (IGHC) has decided to regulate sexual activity in all its member clubs. Stan Berg, founder and current president of IGHG, drafted a position paper, which was unanimously passed by the group's board of directors. The paper dealt with possible attempts at governmental regulation of the gay health club industry.

The position paper states that IGHG "members will prohibit promiscuous, anonymous, unsafe sexual activity." IGHG vice-president Sal Accardi did, however, note that "club owners do not possess the legal power to regulate activity that occurs behind the closed doors of private rooms."

The IGHG also made it clear that it would follow any course necessary to prevent unreasonable governmental interference in the operation of its member clubs.

In a Nov. 14 resolution, IGHG members agreed that "our members and other signators will regulate promiscuous, anonymous, unsafe sexual activity that MIGHT occur in areas of our club NOT leased to individual patrons."

They also decided that "our members and other signators respect the private acts of consenting adults provided those acts are made with the knowledge of possible health and medical consequences."

In a letter to the members of the IGHG, the board of directors said that club owners who did not sign and enforce the provisions of the position paper would face automatic expulsion from the IGHG.

Taking Tolerance Into the Classroom

Mary Midgett Battles Stereotypes By Telling Her Personal Story

by Caroline Streeter

Mary Midgett, called "Midgett" by her friends, is the coordinator for the Gay and Lesbian Speaker's Bureau. Since 1981, she has spoken to thousands of high school students in the Bay Area's public schools with the goal of denystifying homosexuality. Midgett is a woman of many diverse talents. She is a member of the Black Speaker's Bureau of the Bay Area, and co-chairs Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays. Midgett has led workshops on racism at New College of California, and on sexuality in black youth at this year's Black Women's Conference of Churches. She has given talks at San Francisco's Sex Institute and to classes at San Francisco State University on the subject of human sexuality.

Midgett has been an educator since 1969, and has taught pre-school in the San Francisco School District since 1978. She is currently attending Antioch College, majoring in communications. She intends to become a paid speaker on the subjects of child development and human sexuality.

I interviewed Midgett one recent morning in her home, where I had the opportunity to meet her family, she is the mother of two and a grandmother. She is a youthful 49, vibrant with energy and a sense of purpose. She is completely committed to the education of youth with regard to sexuality, which she maintains is the key to dispelling homophobia.

CS: How has your experience as a speaker changed over the past four years?

MM: The response is generally the same. Blacks, Third Worlders and white students are all equally uneducated and not exposed to gay and lesbian lifestyles. Kids know (or are aware of) gays, but they don't know lesbians.

My presentation is usually very dramatic. I dress up to look as little like their notion of a "dyke" as possible. I wear nice dresses and heels; I look real "feminine."

My first question is "How many people know or have seen a black lesbian?" Over the years, I've had no more than 20 kids raise their hands. Even though we live in San Francisco, the lesbian community is invisible. The gay community is very, very tiny, it's a dot. But when young people go to Castro Street, they see so many people in one place. What you have is a lot of students who go through that "strip" and they assume that there are many gays.

CS: That's what Castro and even San Francisco represent, visibility for gay white men.

MM: Yes. And because the black brothers they see on "the strip" do not fit the stereotype, and because there aren't that many of them, the young kids do not see blacks as being gay.

CS: So there is no visibility for gays in the black community?

MM: In the black community, we don't talk about it. What you see on Castro Street, you don't see on Fillmore. I know my neighbors are gay, down the street they're gay, at the restaurant they're gay, but they don't look like the "Castro clones." You don't see us, because traditional-

ly, homosexuality in the black community was always just something people did, how one lived.

CS: It seems that the biggest obstacle that you confront as a speaker is ignorance, and that the way you overcome that is to establish trust.

MM: Yes. And I go about that by sharing with them my personal stuff. During my "rap," I tell them I'm a lesbian, a school teacher, a mother, a grandmother, that I've been married twice. It's very important for them to realize that I have a family—it's something they can relate to. I always bring my family pictures with me. I say, "look, this is my daughter, my son, my grandchildren, my friends."

I say to them, in fact you become an aunt, or a parent, or a grandparent, and that child comes to you, and they say that "I am gay or a lesbian," what are you going to do about that? From the boys, the response is pretty much, "Kick the shit out of them, put them out of the house." The young women will say, "Love them," or "It would be hard," or "I'm not sure."

My response is, no answer is the wrong answer. Any answer you give is ok, because it's such a difficult issue for them to visualize, they don't think such a situation will ever happen to them. Denial is still the typical response. Then I say, if you do put the child out, and there are many youngsters who are out on the street, where is the child going to go? The child will be forced into prostitution. I then point out that such children will then be victimized, that they can be killed because they are "run-aways," and nobody is every gonna know the difference.



"We need to . . . see people as people, and not as separate groups . . ."

—Mary Midgett

So I say, really think about it before you make that decision. Try to talk to the child and figure out what would be comfortable for both of you, rather than automatic rejection. When they start talking about putting the child out, I say to them, as a lesbian, I could put my children out. I could say "Oh my God, they're heterosexuals, what a bore! Get out of my house," you know? Every time I talk about myself, I try always to use a heterosexual example.

CS: You mimic their reactions to gays to show them how absurd their attitudes sound when turned around.

MM: Yes. I ask the kids, if I hadn't told you that I was a lesbian, would you have known?

"NO-O-O," they say. So, ok, just accept me. What we're talking about is a fine line between heterosexuality and homosexuality, and it's all about if I tell you.

CS: What is the typical stereotype that you hear, and has it changed?

MM: That gays don't like children, that they are child molesters and rapists. That they are not religious. This was the strongest stereotype when the Moral Majority was going strong; all the questions were around religion. I point out that most sexual offenders are straight men.

CS: What do students want to talk about?

MM: Now, AIDS is the big issue provoking the most questions. A typical question is, "Are you afraid of getting AIDS?"

What I say to them is that I do have concerns about AIDS. When it first started, everyone said it was a gay person's disease, that I have children who are heterosexual, who have relationships with others. Now that it is hitting the heterosexual community, we need to look at that, and not wear blinders and think that it is a gay person's disease.

It makes me sad that society has not educated young people to that effect. The media is so busy putting out that it is a gay man's disease, and it has now manifest-

(Continued on page 17)

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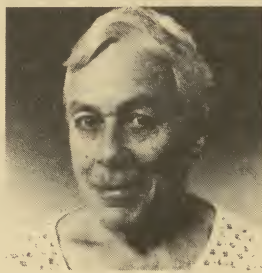
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Jessie McVey
Shanti Practical Support Volunteer

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what can be done with people working together is incredible. I may be naive, but that's how I feel.

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DEATHS

Sean T. Kelly

*When all the footfalls
have traversed the halls,
when all the world's words
have placed the eagle in the sky
spiraling far beyond the eye,
when all the learned ears
have heard the last syllabized word,
then I shall begin again.*

—Sean Kelly

Sean Thomas Kelly, born in Ann Arbor, Michigan Feb. 9, 1943, passed away Dec. 27 at U.C. Medical Center. Writer, poet, artist and musician, Sean possessed a deep appreciation for artistic expression for everything from Carmen Miranda to Carmen; Beach Blanket Babylon to Bach. In fine Irish fashion, he could go from deeply serious to outrageously funny at the snap of a finger.

He will be deeply missed by all his friends and is survived by his mother, three sisters and two brothers.

Friends interested in attending a memorial gathering Jan. 18 may call Will at 621-7660.

Johnathan Kelley

Johnathan Kelley, age 31, died Jan. 2, after a brief illness. Johnathan lived in San Francisco for the past two years and was originally from Ventura, CA and Arizona. He is survived by his parents, his sister Loretta and his friends Jeff, Michelle, Paul, Vince, Scott, Robert, Marlin and the many others who loved him.

Each of us who knew Johnathan hold our own special memories. For some it was his incredible wit and verbal agility, for others his quick smile, handsome face and kinetic energy. He had a presence which dominated every environment he entered and brought joy to all of us. He was a hairstylist par excellence, and when he worked on us he helped accent our entire being.

Johnathan, we will love you and miss you always.

A ceremony to scatter Johnathan's ashes is being planned. For information, call 861-3085.

Christopher Page

L. Christopher Page, 44, died peacefully in his home in San Francisco on Dec. 28. He was an architect who had lived in San Francisco for over 12 years and had worked on many projects in the Bay Area including his own home in which he took much pride.



Chris died as he had lived, with dignity and with the love of his close friends who will remember his warm smile, quick wit, caring generosity, and gentle kindness.

He is survived by his mother Virginia Page; two sisters, Susan Driver and Sally Kanetzky; lower, Dale; and many friends. His ashes were scattered in the Bay near Angel Island on a calm, foggy morning while the sun shone briefly as we said goodbye.

For the loving care Chris received, donations may be made to the AIDS Homecare and Hospice Program, 225 30th St., S.F. 94131.

Scott Johnson 1951-1985

Scott passed away 9:50 a.m. Dec. 30. He died a fighter. For commemoration information call 285-1192.



James Hart

James Stuart Hart of Alameda died Jan. 6 in an Oakland hospital. James was a teacher for 30 years in the Oakland Public Schools and affiliated with California College of Arts and Crafts.

He is survived by his lover Ongetorix Roundtree of Alameda and their close friend Erwin Neff of San Francisco.

Memorial donations are preferred to Community Hospice of East Bay 3102 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Ca. 94705 or Pacific Center, 400 40th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, Ca. 94609. For more information, contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

Lawrence T. Wincey

1985 was a good year for Larry. He was published in *Architectural Digest* and the *Fort Worth Press* for his outstanding contributions to interior design.



specifically for his mastery of the faux bois technique. His artistry is evident throughout California and the southern United States.

This past year brought Larry a reunion with his Tampa and San Francisco families, and himself. Having lived in the Bay Area for ten years, Larry became known for his creative inspiration, high energy, his humor and generosity.

1985 also relieved him of a long illness with AIDS. Though the disease crippled his body, it never took his spirit. And to the end, he emanated hope and love for himself and for us all. We miss him.

In his memory, we ask that you take time to see where you're not loving yourself and do what is in your heart.

Billy Price

Billy Price passed away Dec. 19, 1985. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas on June 2, 1937. Billy had a sister, Rachel Raub of Bakersfield, Ca.

Billy lived in San Francisco the past 20 years. His last employment was with the Pendulum. There will be a wake on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. at the Pendulum. 4146 18th St.

Billy will be missed and loved by all his friends.

James Slick

James E. Slick died Sunday morning Dec. 29, 1985 after a short but difficult battle with AIDS.

Jim, 31 years young, was born in Southern California and lived in San Francisco for the past eight years where he was a well-known bartender. Jim was lovingly cared for in his last days by his sister and friends. He is survived by his mother and two brothers.

Jim's broad smile, artistic talents and performances of "The Lounge Act" will be sadly missed.

Questions concerning memorial services can be answered by Claude at 567-4647.

James Griffin

James Joseph Griffin of San Francisco died peacefully at home on Dec. 28, 1985. Joe worked for the Otis Elevator Company for four years. He is survived by his mother Evelyn Griffin of Manteca, Ca. and many loving friends in San Francisco. He was 27 years of age.

Memorial services were held. Memorial Donations may be made in Joe's memory to Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., S.F. 94117 or to Hospice AIDS Homecare, 225 30th St., S.F. 94131. For additional information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

Charles F. Drew

Since October 1984, Charles Frank Drew struggled with the many complications of AIDS, and finally moved through death at his home in the West Portal district of San Francisco in the early evening of Sunday, Aug. 25, 1985. He died peacefully and with great poise, surrounded by the devoted friends and family who loved and cared for him before and throughout his illness.

All the facts are interesting, but the power and precision of his person will never be lost or forgotten by those whose lives he touched. His humor was exquisitely economical, habit-forming, often bizarre, but always unique. We who love him are grateful that he joined life with us—infusing it with his warmth, wisdom, and very special way of blessing.

Memorial donations to honor his passage should be directed to Hospice of San Francisco at 225 30th Street.

Billy Gaylord's Lavish Send-Off

Renowned Designer Dies at 40; Celebrated for Community Contributions

by George Mendenhall

A gathering of friends and associates of Billy Gaylord, 40, this week celebrated the life of the successful interior decorator. He died on New Year's eve of lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes (not AIDS-related). The San Francisco memorial had three prestigious speakers—Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Mayor Dianne Feinstein, and columnist Herb Caen. Services here and in Dallas were conducted by Rev. James Sandmire of Metropolitan Community Church.

Students of design can see photographs of Gaylord's work in scores of books and magazines. He was particularly famous for his stark white and beige rooms with fabrics placed on the walls. His most recent creation was the interior design of the lavish home of Mayor Feinstein and her husband, Richard Blum, at Presidio Terrace.

Feinstein said, "Billy brought international distinction to San Francisco design. He loved people, and they just naturally responded to his rich and mischievous humor. He loved life, and it showed in everything he said and did."

Gaylord arrived in San Francisco from Mesquite, Texas, where he had been a high school baton twirler. He arrived here in 1963 on Friday the 13th—which he considered to be his lucky day. He vowed that someday he would be driving a Rolls Royce and he eventually did.

Attorney Jerry Berg, who represented Gaylord, says his client and friend was not closeted "as everyone knew he was gay. It just wasn't something that you spoke about. He focused on other things."

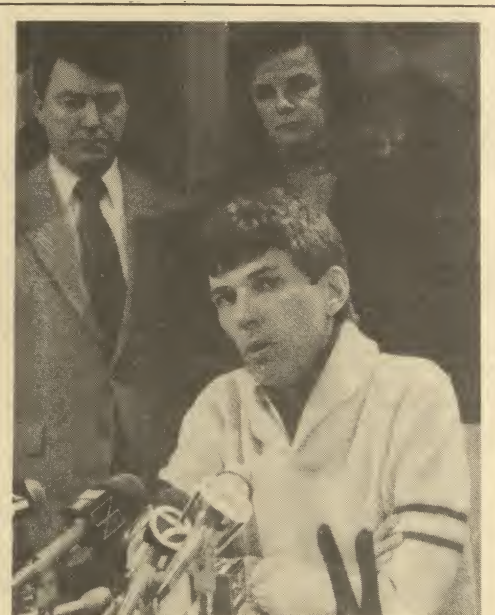
Feinstein's gay aide, Chuck Forrester explains, "He never took himself too seriously. I never thought of him as being closeted. He never pretended to be any-



Billy Gaylord (Photo: Rink)

thing else but gay. He didn't hang around in gay bars. He did not make a big deal about it and preferred to have a mixed crowd at his social gatherings."

Gaylord's fame spread and he returned to San Francisco—where he enjoyed life to the fullest with frequent trips to Paris and Hawaii. He enjoyed the luxury of driving a Rolls Royce and having his body draped in the finest European clothes. His Lombard Street home—and those he decorated—were conversation pieces in society and decorating circles. He was famous, but he was virtually unknown as a gay person and within the gay community.



Chuck Morris was known by people of power in San Francisco. (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Publisher Chuck Morris Dies in Denver

Charles Lee Morris, former publisher of *The Sentinel* newspaper, died of AIDS in his home in Denver, Jan. 6. Long active in San Francisco gay politics, Morris was an early and enthusiastic supporter of Mayor Dianne Feinstein, whom he regarded as a close friend. Morris, 42, owned *The Sentinel* until late 1981. He was diagnosed with AIDS in 1982 following numerous health problems. He moved to Denver in 1984.

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CUAV

(Continued from page 10)

restaurant on the corner of Market and Church Street. The suspects attempted to gain entry into the restaurant but the victim held the doors so they could not get in. The victim yelled to the restaurant patrons and workers to call the police.

Church/Market: The victim was walking on Sanchez Street when he heard whistles blowing. He saw six or seven juveniles running near the corner of Market and Church Streets. The victim heard the suspects yelling, "faggots-queers." The victim ran inside a restaurant at Church and Market Street and asked the workers to call the police.

The victim went outside a few moments later as it appeared that the suspects had retreated from the front doors. However, when the victim stepped outside, one of the suspects hurled a brick which hit the victim in the head. The suspects then ran away.

The police arrived a few minutes later and chased the suspects. Three of them were apprehended and brought back to the scene of the crime. However, because the victim could not identify which of the suspects hit him with a brick, the police released them. The victim sustained a severe laceration and multiple contusions to the eye.

18th/Castro: The victim and his friends were walking across Castro Street with four juveniles following them. One of the juveniles made menacing gestures. The suspects continued their pace and started to pass the victim and his friends. One of the suspects shoved the victim to the side, looked back at him and called him and his friends "faggots." All of the suspects began laughing.

The victim looked at the suspect and then called him a "faggot." The suspect then attacked the victim and shoved him backwards. Fearing for his safety, the victim defended himself and hit the suspect. The suspect then hit the victim in the chest. The fight continued in the street with the suspect hitting the victim in the back and spitting in his face.

Friends of the victim and other people in the vicinity broke up the fight. The suspects retreated across the street saying "we'll be back looking for you" and departed the area.

Market/Dolores: Two gay men were walking east on Market Street towards Dolores when they saw the suspect walking towards them. As they approached the suspect, the victims stepped to the side to allow him to go between them. The suspect also stepped to the side in order to face one of the victims. The victim again moved to the side with the suspect following him. As the victim attempted to step aside again, the suspect grabbed the victim by the arm and said, "do you want to start something?"

The other victim stepped towards the first victim to assist him. The suspect said, "You two are doubling up on me!" Then, the suspect grabbed the first victim and threw him in front of a truck in the lane of traffic on Dolores Street. After throwing the victim against the truck, the suspect went west on Market Street.

Polk/Larkin: The victim was walking on Polk Street. He remembers hearing a sound of an object cutting through the air. The victim went down to the ground and was rendered unconscious by a blow to the head. Later, while in the emergency room of the hospital, he regained consciousness. The hospital personnel informed him that he was probably struck to the head by a blunt instrument such as a tire-iron. The victim was treated for a severe laceration to the head. ■

Midgett

(Continued from page 15)

ed itself in many communities. People are having such fears that they want to go out and kill gay people. They do not accept the fact that it is world-wide. Now, we need to start looking at each other as members of the same family, we've got to take care of each other.

CS: Is that what you mean when you say you believe that "AIDS is a message"?

MM: Yes. A message about world-wide community. We need to come together and see people as people, and not as separate

groups, because I don't consider myself as someone separate.

I say to the young people that even as I stand before them to speak, I ask myself why I'm doing this. I see heterosexual people in the community and I like them. When I see a man and a woman on the street who seem to care about each other, that makes me feel good. I care that they care.

So, I consider myself to be as normal as they are, and I can't understand why I'm up here saying to you that I'm a lesbian, when all that means is that I, too, care. I can't understand why I'm saying that I am a lesbian, when in fact I am a person. An OK,

happy, loving person. I don't have any doubts about myself or my sexuality. When you look at me, you need to see me as a total person.

CS: What motivates you to continue speaking?

MM: It's very important for me to reach my own, black people. It's my opinion that the whites make the rules and they break the rules, they're in control.

CS: Does the white power structure then constitute the biggest challenge to what you are trying to accomplish?

MM: It's a combination of factors. It's the white power

structure that's sending me to the schools, that is "allowing" me to undo what they created! It's important for me to let my people know that I am here. I want them to know that I am standing here as a black woman, doing what is comfortable for me, and it's OK for them to be and act in the way that is comfortable for them.

It's important for me to help my race get it together in terms of sexuality, because sexuality is at the core of one's being. If you can accept your own and others' sexuality, that's more leeway we have in terms of starting to take control of our own lives. ■

C. Streeter

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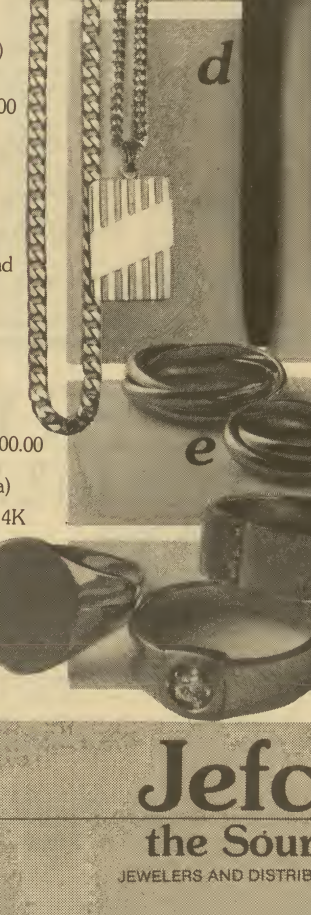
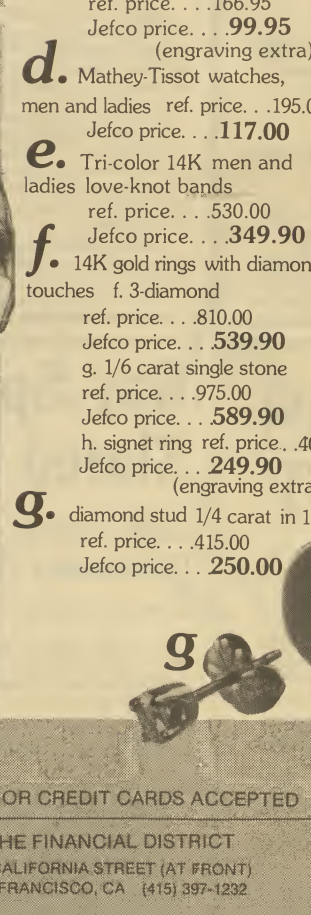
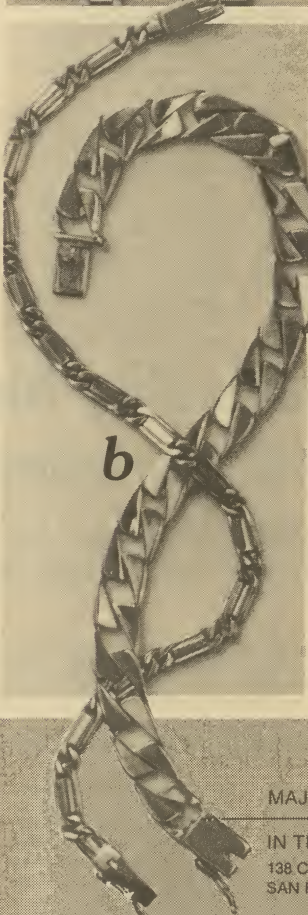
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GAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

EAST BAY MY WAY

Mad Hatters and Teasers NEZ PAS

WIDDRIM PETASUS SOIREE
(A Bycoket'd Nose?)

Fresh from the success of their "In Memory Fund" Christmas raffle at the Town & Country, Emperor V Don and Count VII Jim Malone will now present A Mad Hatter Party dinner and hat auction on Sunday, Jan. 26—again at the T&C.

A "very special show" will be performed by the "T&C Dollies." This is their first time out. No dear ones, not out of the closet. Well, perhaps the costumes but certainly not the individuals. And I understand that they have been rehearsing quite a bit... at least ten minutes every other weekend!

The auction will start at 8 p.m. (no "ahems" this time, James!) with a dinner at 9 p.m. There will be a \$3 donation for the dinner, with the proceeds going to St. Andrew's Kitchen.

So, put on your thinking caps—Hey! That might not be

a bad idea for an entry, eh?—and start creating those chapeaux to be auctioned. It's a very, very worthwhile cause.

I was told that when Don and Jim were making final plans for this event, a "lady of high title" inquired as to where the proceeds would go. When told St. Andrew's Kitchen, she queried, "When are you going to do something for ACIE?" This conundrum was rejoined with an additional quodlibet, to wit: "When are you going to do something for ACIE?" No audible response was forthcoming.

PROMULGATIONS
(A Rescripting Nose)

Val Sousa mentioned to me that very soon she was going to have a function. No specific details were given to me, but she did promise to get the information so I could reveal it here.

It was a tad refreshing trying to "drag" the information from

(Continued on next page)



Medic Jay Reich takes a throat culture from a client at the Sunday Night Men's Clinic.

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Men's Clinic Available in Berkeley

The Gay Men's Health Collective of Berkeley actively promotes the idea of keeping sex healthy and safe and passes out free condoms to all clients. But the reality is that there are some of us who still haven't gotten the message, and there are times when even the well-intentioned may slip.

If you fall into either category, a good way to start the new year would be, first, to resolve to follow safe sex guidelines and, second, to get a free checkup at the GMHC's Sunday Night Men's Clinic.

The clinic provides testing and treatment for gonorrhea (throat, urethral and rectal), syphilis, scabies, lice and venereal warts (penile and external anal warts).

Information and referrals are also available for clients with concerns around AIDS and other sexual health matters.

The clinic is run by and especially for gay men and accommodates lovers and other partners who wish to be seen together. The clinic's Dr. Fred Strauss also runs a Men's Wart Clinic, where more extensive venereal warts, including internal anal warts, may be

treated.

The Sunday Night Men's Clinic operates on a drop-in basis, 7-9 p.m. every Sunday evening, at the Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Avenue at Dana in Berkeley. Services are free to all Bay Area men, although donations are solicited. Additional information may be had by calling 644-0425. New volunteer workers for the clinic are also being sought; training is provided, and no prior experience is needed. Information about volunteer training is also available at the same number or by writing the clinic at the above address.

Dr. Strauss' Men's Wart Clinic is open on Wednesday evenings at the Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center. Services there are offered on a sliding scale basis, and appointments may be made by calling 444-5670. ■

Gay Spirituality Meet Slated for Berkeley

Tayu Center, River Zen Center Co-Sponsor Two-Day Conference On Gay Spirituality Throughout History

by Charles Linebarger

Gay spiritualists from a variety of religious traditions are scheduled to meet in Berkeley later this month to discuss the varieties of gay spirituality. The conference, according to its organizers, "will include talks, workshops, and panel discussions exploring the special contribution of gay people to spiritual work and the connection between gay sexuality and spirituality."

The Conference on Gay Spirituality is being sponsored by two organizations, the River Zen Group and the Tayu Center for Gay Spirituality, according to Daniel Ennis, founder and director of the Tayu Center.

"We want to bring gay spirituality out of the closet," said Ennis. "A lot of people are not aware of the gay dimension of spirituality. Gay people have been working in spiritual fields forever and have always held leadership positions. But this has been hidden for quite a few centuries," he said.

"It hasn't been safe to be gay and work in spiritual fields," con-

tinued Ennis. "The established religions, Judaism and Christianity, haven't been comfortable with gay priests and rabbis. As a result, a lot of gay people grew up thinking that spirituality is not accessible to them."

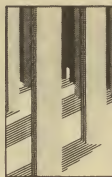
Ennis and others have apparently decided to help gay people get over that notion. Among the fifteen scheduled speakers at the two-day affair are the Rev.

Malcolm Boyd, an Episcopal priest who is also the author of the best-selling *Are You Running With Me Jesus?*, Judy Grahn, a noted lesbian poet and author of *Another Mother Tongue*, Z. Budapest, leader of the Covenant of the Goddess and author of the *Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*, and Dr. Paula Gunn Allen, a Native-American poet.

(Continued on next page)

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Spirituality

(Continued from previous page)

Z. Budapest, who heads the international Covenant of the Goddess from her Oakland home, talked to the B.A.R. about her role in the upcoming conference. "I will talk about sex as a spiritual path," explained Budapest. "I'll talk about the attitudes held about sex by the ancients compared to modern attitudes."

"Sex is a very thorny issue, especially for women," added Budapest. "I think for men, especially gay men, sex is a clear issue. But for women, sex is bound up with the longevity of the relationship and exclusivity. This is all just the opposite of the way it used to be in ancient times when priestesses of the goddess would collect all the men in the area and lay with them in the temple. You had to loosen your girdle for Aphrodite," said Budapest, referring to a practice which Christians, she believes, have mislabeled temple prostitution.

Budapest came to this country in 1959 as a political refugee from her native Hungary. Her background has well prepared her for her role as the leader of the Covenant of the Goddess. "I was the daughter of a witch," said Budapest. "And in 1970 I ran into feminism and that was very compatible with being a witch. All liberation begins from inside. The intellect helps with liberation, but true liberation is a spiritual thing."

Budapest is a devotee of a religion which she believes pre-

dates the classical Hellenism which Christianity superseded. It is a religion centered on the goddess, a sort of deified Mother Nature. And it is a religion in which lesbians and gay men find more than toleration or acceptance. Gay sexuality is part of the cult itself.

Other traditions besides old world nature worship will be included in the conference. Among them are Native American spiritualism, Anglicanism, Zen Buddhism, and Sufism, a mystical Islamic sect. "We tried to get people from as many different traditions as possible," noted Ennis.

Ennis is expecting 60-80 people to attend the conference. When asked what kind of people he expects to pay the \$45 fee to attend, he said, "We're preparing for a whole range of people, basically, anyone interested in gay spirituality. And we expect a good split between men and women."

The Conference on Gay Spirituality will be held on Jan. 25-26 at Shared Visions Center, 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. A \$45 fee will be charged for admission to the workshops and presentations on Saturday, Jan. 25, while the universal worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26, with open house following it, will be free to the public.

For reservations, contact COGS, P.O. Box 11554, Santa Rosa, CA 95406, or call (707) 887-2490.

C. Linebarger

Nez

(Continued from previous page)

her. She kept saying that she didn't need the recognition nor did she want the publicity for herself. Darling Val, if you don't toot your own horn, nobody else will! She did announce, however, that to start off the new year, she was "free, white, and 21." (Well, one out of three isn't too bad!)

Starr asked me to "drop a teaser," as it were, about an upcoming Bitches in Black event in the very near future. Evidently, all plans have not been solidified as yet, as she gave me no hint as to date or place. And please don't ask her why her sister-in-law was able to get into Doug's new black dress—something about not being able to work the zipper correctly over an enlarged derriere—or something to that effect.

A LIQUID NASHGOB (A Spreading Nose?)

Empress I Suzie informed me of two things: 1) She's one down, 11 to go (refer to my predictions for 1986 a couple of issues ago for that meaning!). 2) As you read, her new buttons are being made. I can't remember if they'll read "Suzie is still drinking II" or "Suzie is still drinking two" or "Suzie is still drinking, too." With that child, all three would be apropos!

Sean, of Hayward Sheriff fame, told me that very soon he expects to be working with wood again. This time it will be for instruction (as in teaching) to all ages of dependents from a local military establishment. Darling, all those sailors around...? It was good to see him looking so well after his recent ankle operation—both sides, same foot!

Bench & Bar's lunches will be dark for a few weeks. They are closing in order to revamp the kitchen and the menu. I heard that they just may feature a salad bar and deli sandwiches (not "jelly" sandwiches, dear Ricky!).

I guess that Fat Fred's ulcer is bothering him more than his stomach. It seems that he wanted to cash in a Reno-to-Oakland air line ticket, but upon closer examination, the ticket he held was for Oakland-to-Reno. Is someone stranded somewhere, Fred, or how in the hell did you get back on a ticket going the other way?

Sorry to have missed "The Wedding of the Month" last Sunday at the Paradise. What with Mama Chuckles handling all of the arrangements, I know it was tremendous. Billy and Ed must have had the time of their young lives. But didn't they celebrate the honeymoon, for months, before the knot was tied? And, how come David didn't know who Billy was? Perhaps the "I now pronounce you bride and bride" was too much for him.

REPARATION BAILIWICK (A Correcting Nose!)

I guess the New Year's bubbly really affected my already affected brain! That New Year's "poem" in the last issue caused me more groans than it did you, dear reader, especially after I was informed that one error I managed to correct before press time, was corrected incorrectly. (One has to study for many years to be able to do something that stupid!)

My original rhyme worked perfectly with Hayward's In-B-Tween, but then I remembered that the name had changed. In my haste to "create" a new opening couplet, somehow the name Latitia's seemed right. Then I learned, to my horror and dismay, that the correct name is Loretta's. That's L-o-r-e-t-t-a-s as in Gene, Gary, and Larry.

Hey, you know I'm trying—and that can be very trying!

Sometimes you can't win; sometimes you can't even break even; but at all times you can't quit the game! I'll smile tomorrow! Love,

Nez

BAYMEC Hosts Health Official

The director of communicable diseases for Santa Clara County will be the guest speaker at a BAYMEC forum to discuss services available for people with AIDS. The event will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at the downtown San Jose Sainte Claire Hotel, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost of \$15 includes hors d'oeuvres.

Dr. Bernadette DeArmond of the County Health Department will brief the lesbian/gay community on the county's response to the AIDS crisis. Members of the community are encouraged

to attend to voice concerns and opinions about the county's policies and services.

BAYMEC (Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee) is a local lesbian/gay political action organization. For reservations or further information, please call (408) 297-1024.

Peninsula Business Group Meets

Another step in organization was taken by the Peninsula Business and Professional Association on Dec. 12, when the group discussed proposed bylaws at its first general membership meeting at the Unitarian Fellowship of Redwood City. Twenty-eight attended.

Their first monthly report will be made at the second general membership meeting on Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the same location.

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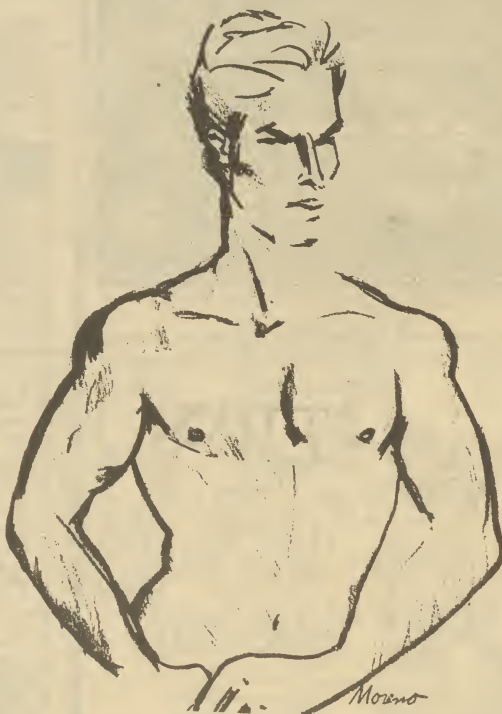
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THIS

FRIDAY 10

- **Us Girls Party:** music, 16th Note, 3160 16th St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4.
- **Dykes and Their Dogs:** photographic display, Atlas Savings & Loan, 1967 Market St., reception 7-9 PM. The phenomenon of lesbians and their concurrent companions, their dogs.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** Hearts and Canasta card party, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for details.
- **Monica Palacios and Henriette Mantel:** comedy, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- **Broadway Babies:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 Cover, show only; \$4 Dinner Guest Cover.
- **Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Women's Drop-in Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.

SATURDAY 11

- **Bay Area Career Women:** New Year's Dance, Gift Center Grand Ballroom, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 9 PM - 3 AM, \$10 members, \$14 non-members. Limited tickets at the door. Gourmet buffet, great music, hats, horns, etc. Call 495-5393 for more details.
- **Auction:** to benefit people of AIDS Vigil for their Washington, D.C. trip, Watering Hole, 1145 Folsom St., S.F., 4-7 PM.
- **Marin AIDS Support Network:** telephone team training, 133 Center St., San Rafael, 9 AM-5 PM, \$10 materials fee. For more details and enrollment information, call 456-4924 or 488-0885.
- **The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** "Come On and Hear," a radio show on KALW-FM, 91.7 FM, 6 PM.
- **Great Outdoors San Francisco:** Tennessee Valley Hike. Call 864-3426 for details.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Decide-and-ride. Meet at Golden Gate Park at McLaren Lodge at 1 PM.
- **Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 7:30 PM, 9:30 PM.
- **Wesley Whitfield:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9:30 PM, \$6 cover, show only, \$4 dinner guest cover.
- **Writing Workshop:** for women 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 12 noon. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, call 626-7000 for more information.

SUNDAY 12

- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** cards and board games, 300 Buchanan at Haight, Ring Marino #97 (Apt. 202). Anything goes at this Card-Board-Game Fest - Risk, Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Bridge, Hearts, or your favorite. Call 641-0999 for details.
- **And Baby Makes Seven:** preview stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM. Paula Vogel's new play, directed by Kris Gannon, is a bizarre comedy. With a little help from a gay friend, a lesbian couple prepares for the birth of their child. For information and reservations, call 861-5079.
- **Robert Goldstein and Nina Glaser:** poetry reading, reception and discussion, Footwork Studio, 3221 22nd St. (at Mission), S.F., 4:30 PM.
- **Linda Tillery and Her Band:** music, The Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8.
- **Matrifocus:** a celebration of women's spiritualities, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 4 PM.
- **Ethel Merman "Sound-Alike" Contest:** sponsored by Musical Theatre Lovers United, S.F., Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St., (Presidio) S.F., 2-5 PM. Cole Porter once said that Merman's voice was "... not just a trumpet ... more like an entire brass section." Everything will be coming up roses for the winner. Prizes include free tickets to the movies, theaters and cabarets as well as a videotape of the winning performance. For details, call 552-5045.
- **Julie Wilder:** cabaret, Buckley's Bistro, 131 Gough St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Reservations advised: 552-8177.
- **Bodybuilders:** open meeting for all interested in competing in Gay Games II, City Athletic Club, 2500 Market St., S.F., 6 PM.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship service at Diablo Valley MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM, call 827-2960 for details.
- **Systemband:** music, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5:30-8:30 PM, \$4 cover.
- **Cindy Herron:** music, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Call 766-2101 for details.
- **Great Outdoors San Francisco:** Santa Cruz Cliche Day. Call (408) 472-2722 for details.
- **Comedy Sunday Night:** N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM. Featuring Suzy Berger, Linda Moakes and Danny Williams.



Nina Glaser's photographs and Robert Goldstein's poetry

- **Ethnic Notions:** television presentation, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 8 PM. Call 861-3078 for reservations. This is a one-hour documentary for TV, tracing evolution of black caricatures in American popular culture. \$5 tax-deductible donation.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide-and-ride. Meet at Rockridge BART station at 10 AM.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** 1-3 1/2-mile run. Meet at Lafayette Park/Presidio Gate, 10 AM, corner of Octavia and Washington.
- **High Tech Gays:** monthly meeting, Campbell Community Center, Winchester and Campbell Ave., Campbell, 6:30 PM. Potluck dinner. Guest speaker is San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan. Call (408) 993-3830 for details.
- **Santa Rosa MCC:** worship services, 515 Orchard St., Santa Rosa, 7 PM.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide-and-ride. Meet at Golden Gate Park at McLaren Lodge at 10 AM.
- **Gay Volleyball:** pick-up games, Potrero Hill Jr. High School, 19th and Deharo, S.F., 11 AM to 2 PM.
- **Le Jazz Hot:** cabaret, The Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 & 11 PM, \$1. Join MC's Consuelo del Rio and Tommi Rose every Sunday for a special show featuring S.F.'s finest female impersonators.
- **Drop-in VD Clinic:** sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.

MONDAY 13

- **Closet Free Radio:** on KZSC-FM 88, Santa Cruz, 8 PM. Guests include new age composer William Bent, playwrights Dan Martin and Michael Biello and KPFA radio personality Jon Sagar.
- **Castro/Valencia site of the Community College District:** first meeting of classes in Women of the World, Fantasy Literature, and Real Estate. Credit (low fee) and non-credit (free) classes offered, 450 Church St., S.F. For more information, call 826-5092.
- **AIDS Healing Service:** San Francisco Foursquare Church, 1330 Gough St. (at Geary), S.F., 7 PM. Conducted in conjunction with the AIDS InterFaith Network.
- **Dell Madill/Mercy Oria:** cabaret, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **AIDS Writing Project:** writing workshop for people with AIDS, 3 to 5 PM. Call 861-2385 for more information.

TUESDAY 14

- **Castro/Valencia classes:** 450 Church St., S.F. Courses in Spanish, American Literature, Acting, and Art History. Call 826-5092 for details.
- **Radical Women:** dinner and discussion, 523-A Valencia St., S.F., dinner at 6:45 PM (\$3.50 donation), meeting at 7:30 PM. Guest speakers Debi Connors and Phyllis Sakahara will discuss disability, sexism and the social order. For more details, call 864-1278.
- **Mitch Bandanza:** cabaret, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **The Ghost in the Attic:** script reading and critique, Playwrights' Center, Fort Mason, Building E, Room 287.

WEEK



poetry will be on display at Footwork Studio Jan. 12.

A boy rehearses his family tragedy again and again in the attic of his mind. Written and directed by Christopher Bernard. Call 775-8377 for time and details.

- **A Dream of Happiness:** script reading and critique, Playwrights' Center, Fort Mason, Building E, Room 287. A woman, chased by demons in her sleep, takes flight into the air, to find herself ridden by the demon of her happiness. Written and directed by Christopher Bernard. Call 775-8377 for time and details.

- **Glint:** script reading and critique, Playwrights' Center, Fort Mason, Building E, Room 287. A voice in the cold and the dark speaks of lost love in ill-remembered light. Written and directed by Christopher Bernard. Call 775-8377 for time and details.

- **Hunter Davis:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7-9 PM.

- **Comedy Night:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

- **Unfinished Business, The New AIDS Show:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9 (\$1 discount offered for the donation of a canned good or toiletry item for the Food Bank of the S.F. AIDS Foundation.) A collaborative effort of artists about the AIDS epidemic. Held over through Feb. 26.

- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** German lessons, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for details.

- **The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana (at Durant), Berkeley, 7 PM. For details, call 465-7388 or 655-3825.

- **Gay Male Sexual Dysfunctions:** meeting, Presbyterian Hospital, 2333 Buchanan, S.F., 7 PM. Call 922-6228 for details.

- **Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page, S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5438 for details.

- **Gay Freedom Day Marching Band:** practice, every Tuesday, Gresham Hall, Grace Cathedral, S.F., 7:15 PM. Interested? Call the Bandfone, 621-5619.

- **Gay and Lesbian Diabetes Support Group:** Liberation Bookstore, 1800 Market St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-2398 for details.

- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7-7:30 PM, request dancing, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 552-8413 for details.

WEDNESDAY 15

- **And Baby Makes Seven:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, (see Sunday for details).

- **Castro/Valencia Classes:** 450 Church St., S.F. Courses in Gay/Lesbian Literature, Voice, French, Commercial Data Processing and more. Call 826-5092 for details.

- **Kitty Margolis:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.

- **Night School Theatre:** dance performance, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$4 cover. Featuring Kim Searcy and Peggy Burgess.

- **Songs & Laughter:** First Anniversary benefit show for the Shanti Project, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, \$6 cover, show only, \$4 dinner guest cover.

- **Great Outdoors San Francisco:** pot luck monthly meeting, 100 Collingwood St., (behind Cala Foods on 18th St.), 7 PM. Everyone always welcome. Pot not necessary. Call 552-7681 for details.

- **Jae Ross and Eugene Barry-Hill:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7 cover. Call 776-2101 for reservations.

- **Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church:** Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer and Praise Service at 8:15 PM, Diablo Valley MCC, 2247 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 827-2960 for details.

- **The Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** "Come On and Hear," a radio show on KALW-FM, 91.7 FM, 8:30 PM.

- **Fruit Punch:** gay radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, 10 PM.

- **Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.

THURSDAY 16

- **And Baby Makes Seven:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros (see Sunday for details).

- **Castro/Valencia Classes:** 450 Church St., S.F. Courses in Drama, Career Exploration, Women in American History, and Hebrew. Call 826-5092 for details.

- **Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers:** monthly composers' symposium, 7:30 PM. Call 821-4531 for location and details.

- **Jae Ross and Bob Bauer:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, \$6 cover, show only, \$4 dinner guest cover.

- **Tune the Grand Up:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

- **Feathers 'N' Flesh:** music, comedy and male strippers, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, \$1, with alternating comedy hosts Danny Williams and Karen Ripley.

- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM.

- **GLOE:** writing workshop for gay male seniors 60 and older, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 431-6254 for details.

- **Western Star Dancers:** beginners square dance class, YWCA, 620 Sutter St., S.F., 7:15 PM. Call 864-6134 for details.

- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** Alamo Square Saloon, 600 Fillmore St. (at Fell), S.F., 9 PM. Call 552-7100 or 563-3031 to pre-register. Danny Williams is the MC.



Us Girls are gonna boogie Friday at the 16th Note. (Photo: B. Spunberg)

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays. This Week compiled by Will Snyder.

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B.A.R. INTERVIEW

A Room of One's Own

John Sharpless' Untiring Work in Poetry Is Beginning to Reap Rich Rewards

by Reggie Jones

John Sharpless has set out to prove that not only can Johnny spell, but he can link words together in a delicate ballet that will turn the heads of the judges of the largest poetry competition in the English-speaking world. In this he has succeeded, in the Arvan International Poetry Competition, thus flying in the face of chance and the almost 18,000 entrants. As if to further boggle the mind, one of Jack's winning contributions, "Elizabeth," is 40 pages long. We're talking serious wordsmithing here.

"To my mind, shackled by the trivialities of carving out a daily existence, a glaring question presents itself. What on earth possessed John Sharpless to sit down and write a 40-page poem about a dead queen in the first place? Where did he find the time? I fill out a shopping list and fall exhausted on the bed for hours. Here is a man who is already a full-time chef/kitchen worker, an active member of an underground motorcycle club, an avant-garde performance artist, among other things, and he still has time to submit epic poems to poetry competitions. And win. The following are excerpts from what turned into a five-hour conversation in his garden apartment.

Reggie Jones: Jack, you've been writing poems now for at least 15 years and this, your first major publishing venture, comes by way of a contest held in another country. How do you account for that?

John Sharpless: There are lots of people, thousands of people, out there writing poems in this country, none of whom ever get to be well known. I've had to make my living at other things since I was about 14, and I have had a whole professional career in kitchens which doesn't necessarily inform my work, it's just something that I've had to do. Before I start to write poetry I have a whole other profession and most poets do, most poets throughout history have. I don't even think there is a word in Chinese for poet.

In America there are probably 2,000 people writing for every category of every award. The one in England had 18,000 submissions! Would you want to read 18,000 poems? Yet, for these poets there is absolutely no other outlet, and I wonder if it's not the poet's fault in some ways? I think that the fact that I have worked all these years, meeting with so many different kinds of people, has given me some idea of how far away it is from most people's idea of existence. I mean never do poets get interviewed on Johnny Carson. Maybe Gore Vidal, who wouldn't be caught dead admitting that he had ever written a poem. True, there are small magazines, but . . . So we've developed into little cliques all the way around the country.

R.J.: This enforced cliquishness seems to breed a certain sameness, just as deadly as obscurity.

J.S.: I wonder if they all don't write alike. Most of the stuff I see in *Sulfur* magazine and the others is all of a time. I went to a poetry reading the other night at the New School and, my goodness, they all take the same pose at the podium! There's a style now, and I know where it's coming from. There's Robert Greeley written all over it. With your head down and your hand on your forehead you intone into the microphone until everybody in the room is asleep. Some cooks that I work with have taken an interest in reading and they came to me and asked, "how do you criticize poetry?" and I said, "how do you criticize food?" If everybody in the dining room after a meal has indigestion, then you're dealing with a fake. Like-

wise, if at the end of a reading everybody in the room is either asleep or fleeing you can assume it is the fault of the poet's delivery, if not the poems themselves.

R.J.: Despite the lack of outlets and the often stilted delivery of the poems, there is a living poetic underground, kept alive through shared work and encouragement, if not publication.

J.S.: I came to San Francisco originally because there is a living tradition here of very real people who I was early introduced to and who immediately treated me as part of the family. I've been very enriched by their magic ever since, like James Broughton and Robert Duncan and Thom Gunn, who is probably the most famous of all of them and is one of the brightest living poets in England right now. Robert Duncan is incredible. He's held up the West Coast tradition for years. At the lowest point in my life, when I didn't have a clue how to make any money and I hadn't yet worked my way into the unions here, I was trying to write some poems that were very strange, very short, and I could barely get ten words to hold together at a time, or less. Anyhow, I gave them to Robert and I got a telephone call at something like six o'clock in the morning. I thought someone had died, and it was Robert on the telephone who went on for about two hours. I mean, what a revelation to have this great man, this great poet, call me up absolute-

ly raving about what I was doing for American poetry! And he's been that way, not just for me, but for every writer for the last 35 years!

James Broughton is another one. It was years before he ever read anything of mine. He decided that I must be at least as good a poet as I was a cook, and he had eaten my food early on so . . . Yet anywhere else in America one doesn't even say "I am a poet" but here I've had that whole connection even though very few people that I work with in kitchens know that I write poems. You try to put your work into the hands of important people, and then it has a chance to stand on its own. I remember the student of a straight poet friend of mine once getting very upset with me because of all my connections with what he supposed to be the great Homosexual Poetic Mafia and the advantages that I must reap thereby. He's probably published several times since then. I certainly haven't. It hasn't lead to anything other than the confidence I have in my own work.

R.J.: Small presses make up the bulk of the publishing world in the Bay Area. Haven't you ever been approached to publish through one of them, and if not, why?

J.S.: Mainly I've been working, having spent a decade writing several books, which took a lot of time. That's not really an answer. I know, but I've done everything I could and met every-



John Sharpless

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

one, been carried around and buffered through parties in Berkeley with all the leading publishers for the last ten years, and I went into the New School reading the other night and they all treated me like I had spots! It wasn't until Robert Duncan showed up that I felt that I knew anybody there. I don't know, it's a result, I guess, of having gone my own way and writing in a very different style than what's going on right now.

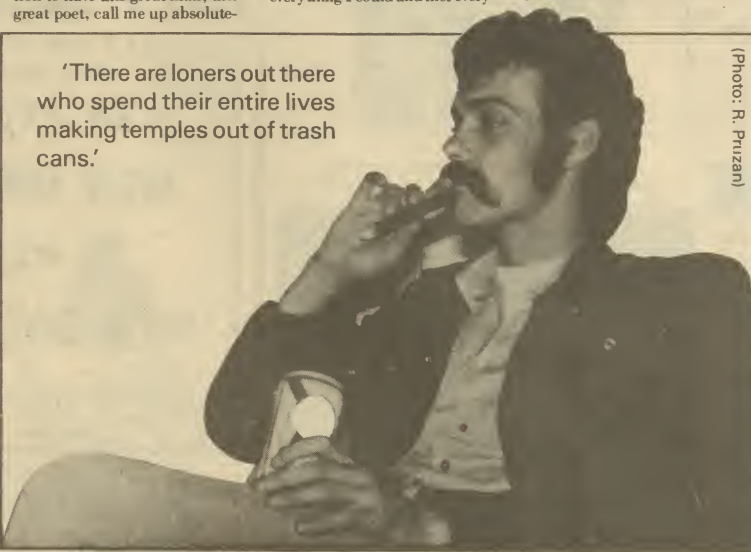
Poetry in the last decade and a half has been largely confessional, largely spoken in the first person singular about the difficulties with one's life, sex, work, what have you, or elegies singing the praises of various things. There are a number of cases of that, but I had gone back and found that I had other voices to deal with, and that there was a perfectly valid tradition there in poetry, other than the poet's own

voice. I have published some of my recipes but, other than a statewide writing competition which I won when I was 14 in Illinois, there has been about a 20-year interval between significant attention, and I've been writing all along.

R.J.: Well, John, now that the prize money is spent, and publication is still some weeks away, what motivates you to continue writing? Do you see 40-page poems in your future?

J.S.: Poetry has been called "language intensified to its highest level" and in order to get that intensity I have had to pare down the number of prose words I can use as standbys. It took me almost a decade to find a vocabulary of words I can use that didn't mean 20 different things to 20 different people, and now we have so much illiteracy that the president uses expressions that aren't worthy of a three-year-old. I've found that the real audience for "Elizabeth," the people that really like her, have no literary background whatsoever, but can still read and understand her (the poem). Perhaps it is the form. I work at a poem until it stops wobbling on the page, and each artist has to arrive at an understanding of the importance of the character of each individual line.

There are loners out there who spend their entire lives making temples out of trash cans, like Simon Rodere with the Watts Towers, and these have influenced a number of important modern works, but when you go to see Watts Towers you find tier after tier of elephants and giraffes and stars and swinging crystals from space, all of which has meaning, all of which is important, but if you go looking for a coherent story line, you'll find that too. The story of how people can spend their entire lives working on one piece of art. Why did they do it? Certainly not repayment. They did it, like I do it, because one has to.



(Photo: R. Pruzan)

'There are loners out there who spend their entire lives making temples out of trash cans.'

Mud Will Be Flung Tonight!

Bette Midler has returned to vinyl in top form which means her new album *Mud Will Be Flung Tonight* is not a musical exercise but a collection of dishes—not exactly the kind you eat off of, either.

Aside from a whole lot of talk about tits, Miss M has a few one-liners worthy of flinging about, including the packaging which warns that this album may be offensive to Madonna, Prince, and Olivia Newton-John. The best of the bunch includes: "The only thing Madonna is going to do like a virgin is have a kid in a stable,

also works for Bill Laswell's and Anton Fiers' all-star rock band. No matter how talented a group of musicians may be, it's the material they perform that makes or breaks them. The Golden Palominos' *Visions of Excess* is loaded with a herd of talented artists and crammed full of enough great material to make this one of the most outstanding lp's of 1985.

It's not music for the masses (Springsteen himself couldn't match John Lydon's disgusting belch on "The Animal Speaks," and make it sound hot). But it's

peace, has some good material, it isn't inspiring enough for a gold star.

Produced by Bill Laswell and Ono, the lp has some wonderful, solid material, and Ono deserves credit for all those endearing messages in the material—it's just too much of a good thing. Because of that "Hell In Paradise" is a personal favorite, the best track on the lp.

The tracks include backup support from Sly and Robbie, Nona Hendryx, and a few other notables. There is no question Ono is a talented artist; the fact that she has at her disposal the best of everything may be where the weakness of her lps stem from. Her admirable sensitivity to the world around her lacks any expressive hunger as if within her peripheral vision there is a comfort zone from which she will not leap.

HOT TRACKS?

Hot tracks are always questionable, and these days most djs shy away from that old DOR rut and the 12" has been redefined to include a variety of material.

"Cities In Dust" by Siouxsie and the Banshees is an uptempo, morbid work that spotlights the band's ability to crossover into a more popular-sounding realm without giving up their traditionally haunting sound.

'Grace Jones' biography on vinyl has been getting lots of attention. The question is why?

"Hearts Pound (Like A Rhythm Machine)" by Gary Myrick is a limp-wristed release from his new lp *Stand For Love*. This wouldn't be noteworthy except for the fact that Myrick's "Guitar, Talk, Love and Drums" was such a powerful tune that one would expect something more comparable from Myrick. "Hearts Pound" sounds too close to some of Bryan Ferry's love-song material—except that Ferry remembered to include soul in his.

YOKO ONO'S STARPIECE

Actually, I've liked Ono's post-Lennon music and some of the pre-Lennon material, and although her new release, *Star-*

with an unknown father."

Miss M claims she can't cope with the techno-age: "I thought a floppy disc was my diaphragm."

On drugs: "Cokeheads say they always want you to go somewhere and talk; what they're really saying is let's go somewhere and I'll talk."

"You know how speed freaks are always grinding their teeth. I know some people who have ground their teeth so fine they could snort their bicuspsids."

"Once I mixed Midol with speed and had my period six times in one day."

"I had to give up speed. I was starting to understand what Charro was saying."

And as for those famous knockers she is always knocking: "If I was a guy with this much excess flesh, I'd have a dick down to my ankles."

VISIONS OF EXCESS

Admittedly the title of the Golden Palominos' lp would have worked for Bette Midler, but it



The Divine Miss M

Grace Jones' biography on vinyl has been getting lots of attention. The question is why? It is of questionable thematic interest (a musical biography) and as for her being a slave to the rhythm, it only proves the old adage that even in bondage it is the servant not the master who holds the key to freedom.

"Magic" by Brian Soares is a local effort that is credible but by no means explosive. Local musicians on small labels deserve an "A" for effort, but it would be doing a disservice to push material that is not top notch. Actually, Soares' "Magic," which was produced by David Diebold (Tune-speak Productions), is reminiscent of Paul Parker's Megatone

dance releases. The material is too processed to stand out; because of that Soares' vocalizing seems lost and it is hard to determine if he sounds good or just processed.

GLORIOUS DIN: LEADING STOLEN HORSES

As for admirable local releases, *Leading Stolen Horses* by Glorious Din is a good shot, even though its exposure may be limited to KUSF.

It may not be fair to describe the band's style as "smooth punk" but its sound is obviously derivative from the raucous clanging of that now-defunct movement, yet full of a fresh, rebellious attitude.

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EVEN IN BABYLON

There's No Excuse for Beauty

JOHN F. KARR

Photos, phallus, poets, and plays are my subjects for the week, but Beauty presides over them all. And Beauty, as well I've learned, takes perspicacity. Few men have waded so assiduously, rubber-booted and knee-deep, through a lifetime of Beauty with greater fortitude or aplomb than myself—girlie, there are some days when I'm just too beautiful to talk on the phone. But Beauty will congeal, so there we all were at the premiere screening of a new short film that not only fawns to Beauty, but stars it, too, with the first on-screen appearance of that performing phenomenon, The Four Beauties.

Some of The Four Beauties are women, and some of them are beyond that. They've punctured Beauty's surface, and found it needs no rationale for existence, no precautions for its indulgence, and no Mastercard to get what it

needs. With their wanton fashions and reckless concern for the specifics of gender, they make David Weissman's *Beauties Without a Cause* a frenzy of a film. Like all great American cinema, it's about our country's mythology: youth, speed, peroxide blondes, and a car crash. Watch with glee as the Beauties take callous advantage of guest star Silvana Nova, only to get their comeuppance. Why expect a moral fable from a hip young director? Or a musical score of such percolator brilliance? New Wave, hell; Symon Michael's music is Neo-St. Vitus Dance.

In *Beauties Without a Cause*, the Four Beauties don't so much hit the screen as hit up the screen. Lulu, especially, is a Mistress of Motion, her lips doing the shimmy in one direction while her face shimmies in another. Such traditional notions as North, South, East, and West have no bearing



The Four Beauties (l. to r.) Theresa McGinley, Lula, Tommy Pace, and Teena Rosen

on her anatomical jitterbug, but then all seven minutes of *Beauties Without a Cause* are methadrine madness. You're sure to see it at the next Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Will there be collision insurance for the seats in the Castro Theatre?

While singers primped "O Holy Night" preparing for the year's most commercial birthday, Penile Performance Artist Scott Taylor pumped up for an Unholy Night, a present for his own birthday, Dec. 20. Of everyone in San Francisco, he had been asked to pose for photographer Joel Peter Witkin.

Is this an honor or an insult? There are 40 of Witkin's photos on exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art, and his portraits of disemboweled dogs serving as fruit bowls, limless pregnant ladies, and decapitated dwarves strapped into S/M devices have divided viewers into two camps: those who see Serious Art, and those who see Scandal. Even the *Chronicle* "art critic," for instance, who doesn't know what Art is but knows what he likes, found Witkin's photos morally indefensible.

Why did Witkin seek out Taylor? "Because he photographs the grotesque and abnormal," Taylor told me.

How did Taylor feel being included in this company? "I love it!" he enthused. "Besides, my pumped-up state is a temporary condition, and it's only external."

Like Beauty, I almost added, but Taylor continued to describe his session with Witkin.

"He posed me in front of a renaissance sky backdrop he'd painted, and appearing through the backdrop is a woman's head, flying with duck wings attached under her ears. Our fingers nearly touch, like Michelangelo's 'Creation.'"

"I'd shaved my body, and Witkin had powdered me down so I looked like a statue—except for my cock, which I'd pumped up for four hours, so it was hanging halfway down to my knees, big and greasy."

I may not know what I like, but I know what Art is, and this sounds like it. Listen to Witkin:

"I guess I've come to realize there's a form of beauty in everything. I've been thinking about the last trial of St. Francis of Assisi. He had a terrible fear of lepers, and one morning he saw the most grotesque leper. And he knew, to get beyond the leper's stench, to get beyond the knowledge of the certain, sickening demise of his own flesh, he knew that he had to kiss that leper on his spongy, puss-filled

lips. And at the instant St. Francis kissed him, the leper turned into Christ."

A photo exhibit and a poetry reading at the same time? Why not, when the artists are best friends and have inspired each other's work. On Sunday, Jan. 12, new photographs by Nina Glaser (who has found the truth of beauty in unexpected visions) and the poetry of Robert Goldstein will be unveiled at the Footwork Studio, 3221 22nd St. (at Mission), with Rob reading new works at 5 p.m., during the opening reception. Admission is free; donations are accepted.

A little romance and a little personal transformation are behind Goldstein's recent work. When Goldstein found Harold Nourse's "Carniverous Saint" a while ago, he realized poetry had the power "to transform the Karma circuit." And later, when he found a copy of *True Romance* magazine, he realized, "We needed some of that in our lives."

perspective so that we can be amused by situations that arise from the tragic.

"I create characters that hopefully transcend stereotypes. We have to stop seeing arbitrary definitions which separate us. We all share something in common—we all enjoy or suffer from the miracle of life."

A peculiar little show called *Marry Me a Little* is running through Jan. 19 at the SF Repertory Theater (648-0793). The show was devised by Sweeney Todd chorus member Craig Lucas as a means of showcasing the numerous Stephen Sondheim songs which had been dropped for various reasons from his shows. This version of the show, mounted by Shoestring Productions and directed by Michael Pulizzano, suffers greatly from an accompanist mismatched to his (admittedly) difficult score, and from the performance of one-half of the cast, Paul Allison, who is lacking in stage vitality.

'Why expect a moral fable from a hip young director? Or a musical score of such percolator brilliance? New Wave, hell; Symon Michael's music is Neo-St. Vitus Dance.'

With this dual ideal, Goldstein wrote *Love Acts 25c*, a cheap book whose publication by Beaux Arts Press will be celebrated at the reading. Through the course of a year's work together, poet Goldstein and photographer Glaser found a kinship, realizing that much of the imagery of their work was compatible. Hence, a joint show. Several portions of *Love Acts 25c* have been blown up and posted near Glaser's photographs. Goldstein will also read some lyric poems and prose pieces. Unlike the cut-up techniques upon which *Love Acts* is based ("cut-up frees my imagination," Goldstein said), the prose and lyric pieces are more direct, humorous. "Bobby" is about a 17-year-old drag queen who competes with his mother for her boyfriends, and "Community Meeting" recounts a potentially explosive confrontation with a black man in psychiatric group therapy. Both pieces concern the struggle to come to terms with identity, hopefully in a humorous fashion. "Our chronic position as outsiders, struggling to get in," said the poet, "gives us a wry

And by changing the order of some of the songs and discarding the original story line ("I wanted the emphasis on singing the songs"), director Pulizzano's version of the show is frequently a ruminative, lugubrious affair. Female star Claudia Barr is a bright spot, but even so, this is more of a recital than a musical.

But what a recital! Even a Sondheim novice in our company was intrigued by the songs—some 20 unheard gems. Did you ever want to hear the overture to *Follies* with words? It's here, and it's also fun to hear other precursors of numbers which finally wound up in featured spots. For either Sondheim sleuth or neophyte, here are both intellectual puzzles and toe-tappers.

Put together fairly quickly to fill a cancellation at SF Rep, *Marry Me a Little* has rough edges, and must be considered a workshop for its more formal run coming at 25 Van Ness in February. By that time, with more snap and polish, and the plot more firmly in place, this Sondheim archive could be a beauty of a show.

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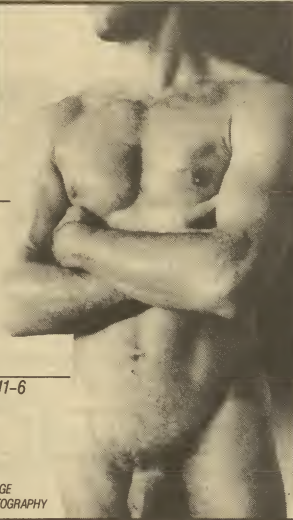
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Classified Information

Over the years, I've learned that it's absolutely futile to ask the publicity directors of America's opera companies for any advance casting information. Last month in Miami Beach (while participating in a public relations seminar held during Opera America's annual conference) I listened to these same P.R. directors complain that they are always the last people to receive such news and the first ones to have to pass it on to the public.

How ironic! Just a week prior to this conference I had received a letter from an opera fan in San Antonio, Texas whose job requires that, during the first part of January, he block out his vacation dates for the entire calendar year. "When I was recently in San Francisco I asked at least a dozen people, including the opera shop staff, ushers, and subscribers if they knew anything about the opera company's future repertory," he wrote. "Finally, someone suggested I contact Tessi Tura of the Bay Area Reporter because he always knows that sort of thing."

His letter, while extremely flattering, brought back memories of the days when my friends and I would struggle to obtain news of performance dates from our favorite artists so that we, too, could plan what meager vacation time we had. Therefore, I was a bit surprised when, as I left the San Francisco Opera's most recent press conference, a staffer asked me if I thought the announcement of the 1986 summer season had been "exciting." Press conferences—like Presidential photo opportunities—tend to be relatively unexciting events for those who already know most of the information about to be released.

DISH, DISH, DISH

After 20 years of operagoing I'm lucky to have built up an invaluable network of sources who gather casting information with uncanny accuracy. When I mentioned these sources at December's Opera America conference, one publicity director expressed genuine alarm that such "classified information" was readily available on the streets. However, my argument was proven true a week later when I ran into an old friend at the Met. Three minutes into our conversation, she reached into her purse and delivered a Xeroxed copy of the San Francisco Opera's 1986 fall season. So here it is, folks!

The season opens with a new production of Verdi's *Don Carlos* directed by John Cox and conducted by John Pritchard. With performances on Sept. 5, 10, 13, 17, 20, 28 and Oct. 1, the cast includes Pilar Lorengar, Stefania

Toczyska, Neil Shicoff, Joseph Rouleau, Robert Lloyd, and Alan Titus. Next comes a revival of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* starring Kiri Te Kanawa as the Countess, Gianna Rolandi as Susannah, Susan Quittmeyer as Cherubino, Judith Christin as Marcellina, Samuel Ramey as Figaro, and Michael Devlin as the Count Almaviva. Directed by John Copley, the production will be conducted by Jeffrey Tate on Sept. 6, 9, 12, 16, 21, 24 and 26.

Jenufa returns to the San Francisco Opera with Gabriela Benachkova in the title role and Leonie Rysanek as the oppressive Kostelnicka. Wieslaw Ochman and Neil Rosenshein provide macho aggravation while Charles Mackerras conducts the Janacek score (sung in Czech) on Sept. 14, 19, 23, 27, Oct. 2 and 5. Next is a revival of Verdi's *La Forza Del Destino* featuring Maria Slatinaru as Leonora, Judith Forst as Preziosilla, and Enrico Fissore as Fra Melitone. Carlo Cossutta, Giorgio Zancanaro, and Paul Plishka follow Andrew Meltzer's baton on Sept. 25, 30, Oct. 4, 9, 12, 15 and 18.

For those Wagnerians who didn't overdose on 1985's Ring cycle, there will be a revival of *Die Meistersinger* conducted by Kurt Herbert Adler on Oct. 14, 17, 23, 26, 29, Nov. 1 and 7. The cast includes Cheryl Studer, Robert Schunk, Hans Tschammer, Kurt Rydl, and David Gordon. The Russian repertoire is represented by a production of *Eugene Onegin* starring Mirella Freni as Tatiana, Thomas Allen as Onegin, Denis Gulyas as Lensky, Nicolai Ghiaurov as Prince Gremin, and Robert Tate as Triquet. John Copley directs. Richard Bradshaw conducts Tchaikovsky's opera on Nov. 8, 11, 16, 21, 26, 29 and Dec. 5.

Fans of French opera will be delighted with two major revivals to be conducted by Jean Fournet. Directed by the talented Francesca Zambello, Gounod's *Faust* will star Mary Jane Johnson as Marguerite, Peter Dvorsky as Faust, Robert Lloyd as Mefistofele, and Alan Titus as Valentin. Performances take place on Oct. 7, 10, 16, 22, 25, 30 and Nov. 2. Then on Nov. 14, 20, 23, 27, 30, Dec. 3 and 6, Sheri Greenawald stars in Massenet's *Manon*. Lotfi Mansouri directs a cast which includes Francisco Araiza and Gino Quilico.

New productions (in addition to the aforementioned *Don Carlos*) are Puccini's *La Boheme* and Verdi's *Macbeth*. The *Boheme* features Nelli Miricioiu as Mimì and Tom Krause as Marcello. Alberto Cupido and Luis Lima alternate as Rodolfo; Fiamma Izzo D'Amico and Nancy Gustafson share Musetta's

GEORGE HEYMONT

broken shoes. The other Bohemians performing under Maurizio Arena's baton are Kevin Langan and Dennis Rawnsley. Performance dates are Oct. 24, 28, 31, Nov. 4, 6, 9, 12, and 15. The Verdi opera (designed and directed by Pier Luigi Pizzi) stars Timothy Noble and Maria Zampieri as Mr. and Mrs. Macbeth, Vladimir Popov as Macduff, and the sonorous John Tomlinson as Banquo. Kazimierz Kord conducts performances on Nov. 19, 22, 25, 28, Dec. 2, 4, and 7. Other goodies include recitals by soprano Jessye Norman on Oct. 5 and tenor Alfredo Kraus on Oct. 19.

Summer of 1987 includes Puccini's *La Fanciulla Del West* (conducted by Andrew Meltzer) and a revival of Tippet's *A Midsummer Marriage*. Leonie Rysanek is slated to return as the Kaiserin in Strauss' *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* and chances are looking pretty good for a new production of Gounod's *Romeo Et Juliette* starring Luis Lima and Ruth Ann Swenson.

SEE THE USA

If you're traveling around the country this year, you might want to rearrange your itinerary to enjoy some of the following events.

World premieres include Thomas Pasatieri's *The Three Sisters* in Columbus, Ohio (March 13); Anthony Davis' opera about Malcolm X at the New York City Opera (Sept. 28) and—if it's finished on time and the tenor shows up—Giancarlo Menotti's new work starring Plácido Domingo as Goya in Washington, D.C. this fall.



Kiri Te Kanawa (seen here as the Marschallin) returns to San Francisco in September as the Countess in Mozart's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*.

American premieres include Rossini's *Voyage to Rheims* in St. Louis; Salinen's *The King Goes Forth To France* in Santa Fe; and Luciano Berio's *La Vera Storia* in Chicago.

Novelty items include Schwanda's *The Bagpiper* in Cincinnati (March 19, 21); Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Light House* in San Diego (May 10-18); William Mayer's *A Death In The Family* in St. Louis; Strauss' *Die Agyptische Helena* in Santa Fe; and a new Ring cycle in Seattle. Elsewhere around the nation, Houston Opera has announced

plans to borrow Snoo Wilson's exciting production of Offenbach's *Orpheus In The Underworld* from the English National Opera. The New York City Opera plans to produce Sigmund Romberg's *New Moon* as well as a new production of Massenet's *Don Quichotte* for Sam Ramey.

Last, but not least, in April 1987 the Kentucky Opera will mount a new production of Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel* for Eric Mills. Underwritten by the folks at Kentucky Fried Chicken, this news makes me wonder which came first: the chicken or the opera! ■

Spring Classes

Community college classes for the Spring 1986 semester at the Castro/Valencia Center begin Monday, Jan. 13.

Two programs exist side by side today at the Castro/Valencia site: one put on by San Francisco Community College (credit courses) and one put on by the Centers Division (free, non-credit adult enrichment classes). In the spring of 1986 City College is offering 32 classes. The Center is offering 14. The latter are usually of a shorter duration and are designed to meet the needs of the community they serve.

Classes of specific concern to the gay/lesbian community are planned. One nine-week class will

deal with gay culture; another beginning in March will deal with issues of concern to men over 40. A new class this spring is titled Gay/Lesbian Issues: Substance Abuse.

Also planned are short-term classes in landscaping, sign language, home repair and maintenance, practical bookkeeping, and small business and the computer. Two writing classes will be offered for the full semester: Creative Writing Skill and Women Writing.

All the Centers' classes are free with open enrollment; however, a minimum of 15 students are needed to start a class and keep it going. All classes begin at 6:30 p.m. ■

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"Bringing The Magic Back to Polk Street"



Sisters-in-Law — Marita Breuer (l.) marries the brother of Eva Maria Bayerwaltes in Edgar Reitz' 15½-hour *Heimat*, showing this weekend—all weekend—in Berkeley, and next weekend in San Francisco.

This 15½-hour epic by Edgar Reitz is the story of the people of the German village of Schabbach. Its focal point is Maria (Marita Breuer), who was born with the century and ages in the film from 19 through her death at 82.

Episode nine (of 11) was screened for the press. "Herrmannchen" takes place in 1955 when Maria's third son Hermann (Joerg Richter) is 15. He climbs into bed between two female boarders in the room next to his. They masturbate him and he falls in love with one of them (Gudrun Landgrebe). The family intervenes.

Virtually complete in itself, this segment is a teensploitation art film, closer to *Murmur of the Heart* than *Private Lessons* but with elements of both. Reitz' style is pleasantly unpretentious except for the frequent switching between color and black-and-white. Perhaps, as with Lindsay Anderson's *If . . .*, the director will let the intellectuals discuss it to death before he reveals he simply couldn't afford all color stock and used whatever was available.

From this sample I would recommend *Heimat* to those who like long stories in which big events are reflected in the lives of little people. It shows this weekend at UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium (642-1412) and next weekend at the Palace of Fine Arts (221-9055), spread over two days with a dinner break each day. The price is \$20, dinner and batteries not included.

Four other new films take you to Japan, China, and Argentina in less than half the time.

RAN

Ran means "chaos." To *Chaos* 75-year-old Akira Kurosawa has brought not only order but Japanese precision and the mastery developed over his long and brilliant career.

So it's art, you say, but is it entertainment? Well, it's got an Alexis-type character who's going to have you cheering, but she's only in a few scenes. There are two enormous battle sequences you can appreciate if the blood doesn't turn you off—some bodies are so full of arrows they make St. Sebastian look like he was faking. The better battle comes first so the climactic one is a bit anticlimactic. You may also be interested in the fine dramatic performance given by a famous Japanese transvestite, Peter, as the loyal, androgynous jester.

The plot is based largely on *King Lear*, with sons instead of daughters. The old man, in this case the Great Lord Hidetora Ichimonji (Tatsuya Nakadai), turns over his power to the eldest of the three, foolishly disowning the youngest, the only one who

loves him enough to tell him he's full of shit. The new first lady encourages her husband ("The hen pecks the cock and makes him crow," Lord Hidetora observes) to cast out his father and make war on his brothers.

To help you follow the battles the armies are color-coded: yellow for Taro, the eldest; red for Jiro, the middle son; and blue for Saburo, the youngest.

Nakadai, like many Lears, starts out at such a high point he has nothing to build to. Instead he becomes more mellow as he goes mad. He spends most of the film looking horrified, usually at the consequences of his actions.

If you like tragedy and spectacle on a grand scale, *Ran* is one of the best. Kurosawa got his French and Japanese investors to come up with \$11.5 million, and he's given them a *Ran* for their money. (Bridge)

DYNASTY'S END

Was Pu Yi, China's last emperor, gay? Li Hanxiang's film, *The Last Emperor*, suggests that possibility as it concentrates on the last years of his life, 1959-67. It makes much of the fact that he was impotent and, in his youth, had enjoyed making his cadre of eunuchs hit each other. He calls his lovely young wife (excellently played by Pan Hong) "little sister" and was apparently of no more use to his empress and three concubines during his brief reign.

The historical background is sketched so quickly it would help to know most of it going in. Pu Yi's royal wedding, the subtitles tell us, "may not have been the grandest but it was certainly the last . . ." Later the empress, an opium junkie, is imprisoned and grows close to one of her husband's concubines. It would have been a great role for Bette Davis in her younger days.

Pu Yi's fortunes changed as the government or its philosophies changed. He was held up as an example of former royalty reduced to citizen status, but some continued to revere and others to despise him.

The Last Emperor is an interesting look at recent events in China from the perspective of one of history's victims. (World)

TRUE STORIES

Many thousands of Argentines "disappeared" between 1976 and 1983. These "desaparecidos" were kidnapped, probably tortured, and possibly murdered by the military. This week you can choose between documentary and fictional treatments of the situation. I prefer the former, which you should at least see for background before plunging into the suds of *The Official Story*.

At first it seems as if the hour-long *Las Madres: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo* will be made up of nothing but parents showing pictures and bragging about their children. ("He was a medical student. He was so sweet I used to ask him if he had honey in his pants.") What gives even this segment an edge is that the children, many of them grown, have not been seen for years.

Intending to shed light on Argentina's human rights violations and to encourage political action by marching and confronting the government, "Las Madres" (the group was started by mothers and grandmothers but now includes men as well) have inspired similar protests in many countries.

The film by Lourdes Portillo and Susana Munoz ends in August 1985 as the trial of nine junta leaders drags on. Some of them were finally convicted last month. Meanwhile, Las Madres continue making demands and the constitutional government in place since 1983 moves very slowly to find the desaparecidos and bring their abusers to justice. (Roxie, Jan. 15-16; Red Vic, Jan. 19-20)

THE OFFICIAL STORY

The Official Story presumes that Alicia, an intelligent woman, could have lived in Argentina until 1983 without being aware that something was wrong when more than 9,000 people, including her best friend Ana, disappeared within seven years.

She sees the marching mothers and grandmothers in the Plaza de Mayo, and a radical student in the history class she teaches explains his revisionist theories with "History's written by assassins," but Alicia's social circle is made up of her husband's business and military friends and she asks no questions.

Then Ana returns after several years with a story of having been kidnapped and tortured because she once lived with a "subversive." Suddenly Alicia realizes that her five-year-old adopted daughter may have been the child of a desaparecida. She literally lets her hair down, goes out into the world, and gets involved.

With women in the front line of Argentina's struggle, it's not inappropriate for *The Official Story* to be told from a woman's perspective, but the music in several scenes just screams "soap opera." The performers are fine, especially Norma Aleandro (Alicia), who shared the best actress award at Cannes with Cher, but director and co-writer Luis Puenzo takes the low road to the emotions with limited creativity.

If you have maternal instincts you'll be more moved than I was. (Vogue)

I Loved It—Go See It!

by Stephen Dreyes

I've always found it harder to write raves than pans, or those thoughtful, evaluative, middle-of-the-road "loved her/hated him" sort of reviews most productions require. On post-New Years sober reflection, it seems to me this is because it's terribly difficult to find original and amusing ways to say "I loved it—go see it!" A case in point is *Tune The Grand Up*, which is going into its ninth month at the 1177 Club on Nob Hill.

Tune The Grand Up, conceived, written, and designed by Paul

just about everything. She was equally at home in a nearly operatic medley from *Evita* and a delightfully raunchy version of "Turn Back Oh Man" from *Godspell*. Jackie Taylor is a seasoned vet who brought authority and humor to fiendishly difficult pieces like Sondheim's "Ladies Who Lunch" and "I'm Still Here," and Nancy McLean, who has a voice as big as all outdoors, sparked the show in her duet with Collins, "Anything You Can Do," from *Annie Get Your Gun*. Mikio did a wonderful job

does his directing, but he did a lovely job of the Rogers and Hammerstein medley. The musical director and accompanist is the always dependable Bob Bauer.

Broadway Babies contains some inexplicable directorial choices. The opening number, "All That Jazz," from *Chicago*, was performed in Oriental Kinomatos with fans. This seemed to me to have nothing at all to do with the song, or the show as a whole, but is an example of imposing a style, rather than allowing the style to emerge from the content of the piece itself. "Memories," from *Cats*, was sung partially in Japanese, which destroyed the lyric for those of us who aren't familiar with that language.

But, taken all in all, Broadway Babies is a bright, energetic, and entertaining show which deserves to be seen. It's not quite the slick artful *Tune The Grand Up* is, but given time to settle down, it very clearly could be. ■

'This is directing at its best, and, happily, the performers are equally adept.'

Gilger, is a collage of more than 40 songs by Broadway composer and lyricist Jerry Herman. In a burst of Nachman-esque honesty, I have to admit at this point that I didn't know a lot about Herman's work before seeing *Tune*. I was driven nearly to distraction by the constant repetition of Satchmo's version of "Hello Dolly!" during my high school years, and having been a devout and loyal devotee of Patrick Dennis all my adult life, it would never occur to me to see anyone but the irreplaceable Rosalind Russell play *Mame*—no, not even the Great Lansbury and certainly not Lucille Ball, no matter how many layers of cheesecloth she was shot through. So Herman's songs were a happy surprise. They range from the unabashedly sentimental to the exuberantly optimistic, from blithe to intense, and manage to cover a lot of ground in between.

In *Tune The Grand Up*, the numbers are grouped in broad categories, such as "Harmony" and "Discord." This is a standard approach in cabaret, but what is unusual is the wonderful interior logic of this arrangement, and the seamless fashion in which the songs flow. This is directing at its best, and, happily, the performers are equally adept. The six performers are James Followell, who is also music director, accompanist, and vocal coach, Darlene Popovic, John Nockels, Alma Sayles, David Brousal, and the extraordinary Cindy Herron, who joined the cast just last weekend. It's a refreshingly varied gang, and it would be fruitless to single out any one of them for special notice. They're all fine. The show is visually a gem. The lighting is effective, and the costumes are tasteful and appropriate, with a minimum of props. The choreography by co-director Barbara Valente is smashing, especially considering the limited space she has to work with.

There isn't a wasted moment in *Tune The Grand Up*, but my favorite number was "Song On The Sand" from *La Cage Aux Folles*, which was performed in an achingly lovely six-part harmony that left nary a dry eye in the joint. I loved it—go see it!

Things are only slightly less rosy down the hill at Buckley's Bistro, where Broadway Babies, the brainchild of producer/director/performer Joseph Taro, opened on Friday night. BB is a selection of, for the most part, great songs from a wide variety of Broadway shows. It's a strong collection, and well performed, particularly by the women.

Katibelle Collins has a lovely, clear voice with an amazing range and seems to be able to sing

of "Ain't Necessarily So," during which the audience acted as the chorus, but "Anyone Can Whistle," a song about timidity and repression, is all wrong for his slightly florid vocal style. Taro's performing suffers a bit from a tendency to over elaborate, as

Tune The Grand Up
1177 Club; 776-2101

Broadway Babies
Buckley's; 552-8177



Cindy Herron (l.), who just joined *Tune the Grand Up*, with David Brousal.

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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

CORNER POCKET

Chalk Talk

What is the most important element of your pool game? Some will tell you it's the stroke, others claim stance is most important, while still others believe a firm bridge hand is the secret. They're all wrong. Nothing is as important as chalk. After decades of research, I'm now prepared to reveal the entire story.

HISTORY

Billiards was originally played with plain wooden cues—the chalk cubes were merely ornamental. The leather-tipped cue came along some time after the game had already become popular, and since the leather necessitated the use of a mildly abrasive coating to give the surface a gripping action on the cue ball, everyone agreed those little blue cubes of chalk would be perfect. The Master Chalk Company now had a market for its excellent product (carried as a tax loss for decades), and soon players everywhere were spinning the cue ball. Because the tip was invented in England, spinning the ball was known as English (imagine if it had been invented in Afghanistan); cue ball control ushered in a new era in billiards.

WHEN TO CHALK UP

Most players chalk up because everybody else does; it lends credence to their game. The professionals advise us to chalk up before every shot, but they're laughing up their sleeves, friends. Naturally they're not going to reveal their most valued secret, and so, as a public service, I've decided to take it upon myself to share this vital information with you.

Despite the fact that chalk prevents nicks, its primary function is to intimidate. Every time you pick up that cube your goal should be to distract your opponent.

Rule #1: Don't wait until it's your turn. The only time to chalk up is when your opponent is

about to shoot. Don't reach for that chalk until he assumes his stance.

Rule #2: The first time you chalk up, be directly in line with his shot, positioning your cue tip and the chalk at the same height as the table surface. He may or may not complain about this, but in either case, do it only once. From then on, ensure that you're within his peripheral vision. Of course, this routine wears thin easily, so a couple of variances are recommended: remain behind your opponent, squeaking the chalk as he begins his warm-up strokes; chalk up—as the pro recommends—before your turn, but keep the chalk until your opponent is about to shoot, then place the chalk on the rail nearest his head.

G.S.L. UPDATE

League Meeting Saturday at Amelia's

This Saturday at noon, Amelia's, located at 647 Valencia St., will host the first Gay Softball League meeting of 1986. Commissioner Rick Brattin will gavel the meeting open at 12:15 p.m. sharp.

For all of you who want to secure a spot in this season's schedule, a \$100 non-refundable deposit will do it for you. Otherwise, the full amount will be due in February.

Some practices have already been scheduled. New Cafe San Marcos manager Francis Medeiros has one set for Sunday, Jan. 19, as does the Village. Anyone interested in listing their practice dates here should contact me at 753-0740. Tony Brown, coach of the new Casa Loma team, is looking for a few players. He can be reached through the Casa Loma.

The last league meeting drew a paltry crowd of about 35 league

If your opponent's shot is crucial as well as difficult, a more vigorous chalking action is recommended. Subtle vocal utterances are also useful: clearing the throat, coughing, or—in extreme cases—a snarl (Louie the Lip reputedly had such a snarl that roomful of players would unscrew their sticks whenever they heard the sound).

The best use of chalk I've ever witnessed was in a highstakes game late one rainy night in Chicago. Ronnie the Rat was down by one game and desperate. Just as his opponent was about to deliver the game-winning shot, Ronnie hit him over the head with a sack containing 3,500 cubes of chalk. That's pool!

GENE MILLER

TOM VINDEED

LEAGUE BOWL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Bowler Appreciation Tournament

Sixty-one of the 120+ bowlers who qualified to compete in the semi-finals of the Park Bowl Bowlers Appreciation Tournament were from the Tavern Guild and Women's Business Leagues. Regrettably, only 24 of our 61 bowlers who qualified showed up to compete for one of the 15 final positions. Nevertheless, in spite of the modest gay league bowler turnout, the results were quite impressive. The following lists the finalists and their qualifying pin margins.

FINALISTS Dec. 26

Entering Average	Bowled Over Average
1. Janice Tong	170 115
2. Grant Yee	190 86
3. Tad Kato	171 83
4. Gerald Allen	141 83
5. Linda Adrevo	124 73
6. Roger Warren	155 72
7. Stanley Lim	148 71

8. Pat Coulton	170 71
9. Bill Krider	145 68
10. Dave Smith	129 65
11. Edward Shien	180 63
12. Ken Shimozaka	181 61
13. Patricia Curva	162 61
14. Goodman Ng	200 59
15. Mark Platis	169 59

The #1 position plus Tavern Guild and Women's Business League winners were:

WINNERS Dec. 27

1. Goodman Ng	200 85
2. Patricia Curva	162 67
3. Bill Krider	145 48
7. Linda Adrevo	124 14
8. Gerald Allen	141 10
11. Mark Platis	169 1
12. Pat Coulton	170 -9

I am certain all participants join me in extending a most sincere vote of gratitude to the owners and management of Park Bowl.

SCOREBOARD

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings and Personal Achievements
(The League Averages are unavailable)

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

(Week 11 of 28 - as of 12/29/85)	
1. Split City Rollers	34 10
2. Pin Pistols	26 18
3. 300 and Won	26 18
4. Deadwoods H	25 19
5. Sassy	24 20
6. Strange Interlude	24 20
7. Miss-Splits	24 20
8. Rocky's Boys	21 22
9. S.G.F.H. & Biff	21 23
10. Four In A Row	20 24
11. Not Again	19 25
12. High Rollers	18 25 1/2
13. Lucky Strikes	18 26
14. Vagabond	17 26 1/2
15. Spikers	17 26 1/2
16. Alley Cats	16 28

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

(Week 26 of 40 as of 12/27/85)		
1. Versatiles	19	5
2. Capricorn IV	16	8
3. The Eruptions	13	11
4. Yacht Club I	12	12
5. Wacky Keystones	11	13
6. Hawaii Bound	10	14
7. Wonder Women	8½	15½
8. Maui Wowies	4½	19½

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

LEAGUE		
(Week 11 of 32 - as of 12/23/85)		
1. Bow-K	30	14
2. Belew Meanies	28	16
3. Kimo Therapy	28	16
4. Play With It, Ltd.	26	18
5. Agency Rent A Car	25	19
6. Vagabond	24	20
7. Damaged Goods	24	20
8. Powerhouse	23½	20½
9. The Poppers	21	23
10. Tina's Weenies	21	23
11. Bench & Bar	21	23
12. One's Still Up	17½	26½
13. Diner Dogs	17	27
14. Foote Plumbing	15	29
15. Pacific Coast Glass	14½	29½
16. Pin Pals	14½	29½

COMMUNITY BONANZA LEAGUE

LEAGUE		
(Week 14 of 32 - as of 12/23/85)		
1. 5 Not So Ezy Pieces	32½	19½
2. PG Gutter Girls	32	20
3. Oh! So Close!	31½	24½
4. El Rio Tartarugas	26	26
5. The Smooth Operators	25	31
6. Spare Me!!!	23	29
7. Team #2	12½	19½
8. Team #8	1½	30½

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

LEAGUE		
(Week 11 of 32 - as of 12/17/85)		
1. "Five Big Balls"	23	16
2. Strikes 'N' 'Snares		
Fore	23	16
3. The "69" Club	23	16
4. Sorority Bitches	27	17
5. 5 Inner Pieces	27	17
6. Housewives From Hell	26½	17½
7. La Cage Ah Balls!	24½	19½
8. The DP's	24	20
9. Number Won	24	20
10. Bottoms Up	20½	23½
11. Teddy Bears	20	24
12. Steering Committee	20	24
13. "Guys N Doll"	19	25
14. Tramps R Us	19	25
15. Strangers In The Night	14½	29½
16. Team #10	0	44

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

LEAGUE		
(Week 10 of 32 - as of 12/11/85)		
1. Play With It, Unltd.	30	10
2. Taco Tycoons	28	12
3. Publio's	27	13
4. Double D Dixie Do Das	26½	13½
5. Contours Gals	26	14
6. Mother Nature	24	16
7. Male Image	22½	17½
8. Thing II	20	20
9. Gutter Girls	20	20
10. Brunswick Beauties	20	16
11. Urasis Dragon	19	21
12. Geri's Kids	19	21
13. Team #18	19	21
14. Stud City	16	24
15. Mix Ups	15	25
16. Alley Oops	15	25
17. Team 20	14	26
18. Peaches & Creams	13	27
19. Crystal Sisters	12	24
20. High Gear	4	28

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

LEAGUE	
(Week 11 of 32 - as of 12/26/85)	
1. Vagabond	26 18
2. Old Rick's	25 19
3. Pendulum	23 21
4. Hunks	23 17
5. Penguins	21 19
6. Twin Peaks 49er's	20 20
7. P.S.-One Mo' Time	16 24
8. Gangway	14 30

Compiled by J. R. De Young

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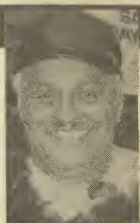
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BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR



MR. MARCUS

A Goddess For Men Behind Bars III

If George Washington were alive today, chances are he'd be in the audience to celebrate his birthday at San Francisco's all-bartender show, Men Behind Bars, coming your way for the third year Sunday and Monday, Feb. 16 and 17. This year, MBB will present two evening performances and two matinees at the Victoria Theatre at 1400 and 2000 hours both days. The tickets for the matinee are \$12 and the evening shows will cost you \$15, all for various charities this year, of course. Tickets will be on sale at both Headlines stores beginning next week and if the past two years are any indication, they'll be sold out within 48 hours so don't wait. Make your plans now. And tell a friend.

Joining the list of stellar guest stars from previous years (Val Diamond, Linda Leilani-Brown, and Tom Ammiano), this year's cast includes the scintillating Gail Wilson, who will romp through outrageous show-stoppers as devised by the show biz fiendishness of producers Mark Abramson and Jim Cvitanich. If you thought the finale of the first act last year was outrageous, you'll be absolutely pulverized this year. BB Babylon hat genius Alan Greenspan is busy at work creating sets, costumes and (key word) "a" hat for this year's production, which includes those gorgeous Follies Men and loads of talent culled from the ranks of the many great bartenders in Our Town. City Swing, the fine, fine big band, will work their musical magic under the masterful baton of Wayne Love, who has written special arrangements for the score again this year. MBB fans are flying in from New York, London, Sydney, Los Angeles,



Welcoming in the New Year at the GiftCenter (Photo: Rink)

Boston, and Singapore for the show. It's a production worthy of your attention while at the same time raising money for the many gay charities in our midst. I repeat once again: don't wait until the last minute like you did last year. MBB III will absolutely wreck you. You all want to be wrecked, don't you? The Pussies will be back this year, and so will Marilyn and Jane, Dianne (Tim Garner) F., and the SF Tap Troupe. Don't miss the most talked-about show that became

world-famous overnight.

January should be a month to recuperate from the festivities of November and December, but looking at the calendar would belie that supposition. My favorite comic, Tom Ammiano, has written and will perform his 1986 debut called "Wrists" (those limp things just

(Continued on next page)



Gail Wilson will be the guest star at Men Behind Bars III Feb. 16 and 17 at the Victoria Theatre. (Photo: R. Douglass)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

below so many people's elbows). The award-winning Annunzio takes the Theatre Rhino Studio stage two weekends in a row (Fri./Sat., Jan. 17, 18, 24, and 25) at 2000 hours to twist you around his funny fingers. I advise you to make reservations by calling 861-5079 for the \$7 tickets.

Chances are you didn't find the 1986 calendar put out by The 15 Association, a visually stunning and S&M stimulating piece dedicated to pleasurable pain. Great job. Anyway, The 15 kick off the year with their first gathering on Sat., Jan. 18. Call their hotline 641-7282 for details.

This Sunday, after the selection of the candidates for Emperor and Empress are decided upon, there'll be a "gala" to introduce the contenders for the throne at Hungarian Hall, 1052 Geary, from 1900 hrs on for a paltry \$5. Hurry, it may be your first and last chance to see the reigning royalty together in person before they fade into oblivion.

The indefatigable Patrick Toner (you all know his title) presents a Military Ball (uniforms encouraged) on Friday, Jan. 31 with a buffet from 1900-2100, entertainment from 2100-2300, and dance your ass off until 0200. Tickets are \$12 and it's a benefit for the Coming Home Hospice, to be held at 50 Otis St. (near the Salvation Army and the Welfare Dept.), in a new setting. Don't miss this one.

There's so much going on in February, I think I'll wait until next week to lay it on y'all. Get lots of rest while you can. February will be a ball-buster for the social set, serious or not.

★ ★ ★

The Cable Car Awards Board of Directors met for a five-hour marathon last Sunday

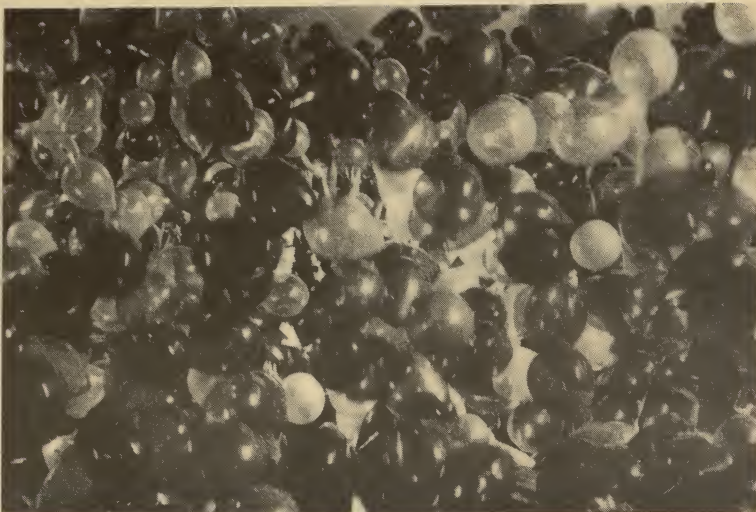
night and the results are in. All of you who worked so hard during the past year putting on benefits, shows, plays, revues, fundraising, helping community-wide needs, dancing, singing, etc., etc. are in the hopper for big recognition Sat., Feb. 15, for the 12th annual presentation of awards for outstanding achievement in nearly every endeavor imaginable.

Rumors are rampant that top-draw movie personalities are considering making an appearance at San Francisco's most prestigious awards ceremony. The committees have done their work. Your holiday decorations, your bar promotions, your community spirit, your play, your musical show, your writing, your posters, your photos, and your disco party have been under scrutiny by cells of committees and their recommendations have been made. The nominees will be announced any day now. Good luck and congratulations whether you expected it or not. This year's awards and show will knock your socks off.

DOING DISHES WITH A LARGE CHORE GIRL

In answer to your many, many questions (but at 3 a.m., Blanche?), that business space at the corner of 18th and Castro that used to be a Chinese Mom and Mom store will open any day now as one of those one-hour photo processing stores to be called Presto Prints. The store will be manned by either gays or lesbians, or persons sympathetic to the lifestyle of the neighborhood in which they have dedicated themselves to making a killing!

Not that I'm pushing the businesses in the Castro, but during the shopping season weren't you nauseated by the "attitude queens" on duty in the downtown stores? I found the clerks at All That Jazz, Gilded Age, Obelisk, David Andrew, Male Image, and other shops to be delightfully helpful, swift, extremely talented wrappers and



Balloons at the GiftCenter at midnight on New Year's Eve.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

smiling throughout the mad rush—terrific.

Miles Mitchell has changed his mind again and will definitely be moving to Laguna Beach with his new "squeeze," bartender Jessie. But before leaving, he does have time to squeeze a few of the locals, or didn't you see those torrid clinches at the Powerhouse with Jerry Valerio last Sunday night?

This sweet young thing swept into the Eagle last Friday night to Dear Sarah's plank (the Gilded Faucet) wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the legend: "I'm Not Good at Names/Can I Call You Asshole?" and before she could order, Dear Sarah hissed a decidedly bitchy "No!" When Sonny Cline saw that, he said, "I want one!" to which Terry Thompson hissed, "No!"

I don't know if the 200 block of Church Street is jinxed or not, to wit: The power failures always happen at strategic moments at the Pilsner Inn; they're always

tearing up the streets for MUNI; Bubbles Abramson has lost countless earrings, and now Gabriel Starr (who just moved back here from L.A.) was painting his apartment last weekend when he fell from the ladder (or it tipped over) and a wooden protrusion punctured his spleen. Gabe just emerged from Intensive Care and at my deadline was recovering at SF General. Get well man, your mouth has been in exile too long!

Birthday greetings to Steve "Studley" Loignon, Saturday, Jan. 11. Steve is in L.A. celebrating with Suzy Parker and Emiel, owner of the L.A. Stud.

Speaking of L.A., Bob Linsley, manager of the hot, hot Gauntlet II bar, insists on calling ex-San Franciscan, Air Force Rick "Loni," but I can't figure out what it means and Tony Taylor of *Compass Mag* is scared to print it (?).

Terry Thompson of the SF Eagle has relented! To all of you sending prayers upward and lighting candles in front of the Virgin, be advised that David "Stella" Stoll will be in Men Behind Bars after all. Ron "Red on the Head" Whitworth is flying in from Indiana (Indiana?) to

take a spot in the show, too.

Upon hearing that the 803rd suicide had been committed by jumpers on the GG Bridge, one dude at the Eagle last Sunday shrieked: "They'll have to paint it Purple and inlay rhinestones before I'd jump from it!" Are you reading this GG Bridge commissioners?

Hope you all had a good time at Supervisor John Molinari's "Thank You San Francisco" party at the Opera House last Tuesday. Said one astute gay man: "I just know Louise Molinari and I wear the same size dress!" to which Mark Friese snapped: "But you don't wear the same size heels, honey!" Note: Neither does Mark Friese!

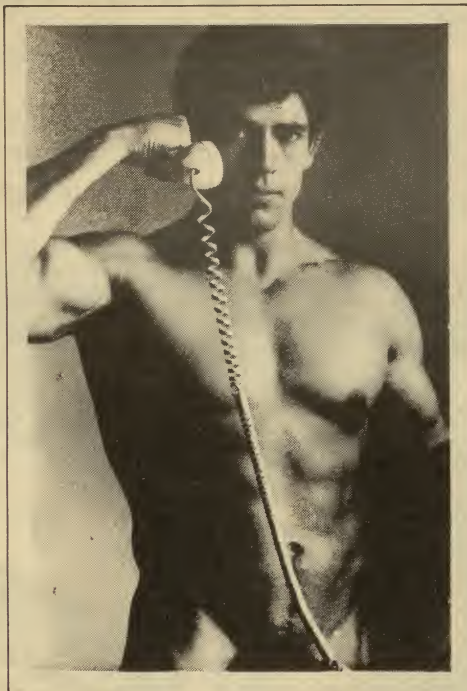
Memo for Barrister Ray: 'Tis better to be looked over than to be overlooked! Crazy about you, baby!

★ ★ ★

This is about ready for the bottom of your bird cage, so until next week guys and gals, work hard, play hearty, smile at a stranger, and remember: Only a real man brings out the best in a man.

Mister Marcus

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Film Festival

Frameline is now accepting entries for the 10th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 20-29, 1986. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the festival brings together the best in feature, documentary, and short films and video works by and about lesbians and gay men. This, the world's oldest and largest annual screening of lesbian and gay film and video, is sponsored by Frameline, a non-profit media organization, to develop an audience for lesbian and gay media arts and to promote a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition of these productions.

The 10th Anniversary Festival will be held at the Castro and Roxie theaters in San Francisco and will include not only the best in recent lesbian and gay cinema, but also a retrospective of films shown at the Festival during its first decade.

Awards will be presented to outstanding works in several categories. Formats accepted are 35mm, 16mm, super-8 films; 3/4" and 1/2" VHS video cassette.

tes. The deadline for entries is April 15, 1986. For more information and entry forms contact Frameline, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call 861-5245.

Gay Lit

City College will offer a course in Gay and Lesbian Literature at the Castro/Valencia Center (Everett Middle School at Church between 16th and 17th) during the Spring 1986 semester. The class will meet once a week, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30. The first meeting is Jan. 15; class ends May 21. The course carries three units of upper division college credit, transferrable to State and Berkeley. Tuition is \$15 for the semester. Jack Collins is the instructor. The topic for English 55B will be: Novels and Stories from Stonewall to the Present. Writers include Rita Mae Brown, Audre Lorde, Sally Gearhart, Christopher Isherwood, John Rechy, and Armistead Maupin. Register through the Evening Division of City College or on the first night of class.

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COURTLY CHATTER

Off and Running (Almost)

REMY

It's almost official. Seven applications for the offices of Emperor XIV (A.N.) and Empress XXI were submitted by the deadline, Jan. 2. There are three applicants for Emperor and four for Empress. Matthew Brown, Tommy Turner, and Rick Manning are potential Emperor candidates and Sable Clown, Dorothy Duster, Tatiana, and Diedre are hopeful candidates for Empress. Tuesday, Jan. 7, the Governing Board convened to review each candidate's application and allow members of the board and general public to inquire about their qualifications for the respective offices. As of this writing, it looks as if all applicants will be accepted.

The official introduction of the candidates will take place at Hungarian Hall this Saturday, Jan. 11, starting at 8 p.m. Emperor Ken Wright and Empress Sissy Spaceout will host this gala event, as the contestants begin their campaigns to replace them on the thrones of Emperor or Empress. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. They're available at the Men's Room, Kokpit, Kimo's, and the Casa Loma. Chairmen for this event are Emperor VII (A.N.) Bob Ross and Empress XIV Ginger. This promises to be a light, entertaining, cheerful, and fun evening. Come out and see who the candidates will be as we start into the third decade of imperial rule.

Following the introduction of candidates, on the next five successive Tuesdays, All Candidates Nights will be held around town. These nights are for the voting public to view the contenders to the thrones and ask questions pertinent to the spirit of the offices. The first one will be held at the Kokpit, 301 Turk St., hosted by Emperor IX Bob Pace and Empress XIII Char on Jan. 14. The second one will be held at Febe's, 1500 Folsom, hosted by Emperor V Hector and Empress XIX Remy on Jan. 21. The third will be held at the Village, 4086 18th St., hosted by Emperor VII Bob Ross and Empress XIV Ginger on Jan. 28. Candidate night four will be held at Amelia's, 647 Valencia. The hosts will be Emperor III Bob Cramer and Empress I Jose, on Feb. 4. The final night will be on

Feb. 11 at the Blue & Gold, 136 Turk St. The hosts will be Emperor XII Rich Carle and Empress XVII Mae. All of the All Candidate Nights start at 8 p.m. sharp. The election of the new monarchs will take place Saturday, Feb. 15, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. The voting takes place one week prior to the Coronation Ball. Results will be kept secret until called for at the coronation. From the looks of it, this campaign and election are going to be too close to call, because there are no clear-cut front runners.

IMPERIAL FESTIVITIES

Amidst the All Candidates Nights and candidate campaign parties and functions, there will be several festivities put on by either the court or the Imperial Family. The first one is the Court Dinner that will be held Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Raffles Restaurant in the Fox Plaza. This is a non-drag (give your face a rest day) affair, with no-host cocktails at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. The cost is \$16, which includes tax, tip, and 1/2 carafe of wine. The Emperor and Empress will give out some camp awards during the evening.

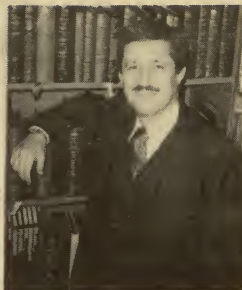
The second event will be the second annual Royal Romp hosted by Empress I Jose and members of the Imperial Family to honor the Emperor and Empress. The Hungarian Hall (1052 Geary) will be the site of this fun event on Feb. 1 starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6, which includes a dance card. There will be a live orchestra and entertainment. Last year's Romp was a huge success and I felt very honored to be one of the guests of honor. This year's soiree promises to be just as much fun.

CORONATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

The Emperor and Empress and the Imperial Court have finalized the Coronation Week festivities for their last week in office. Tuesday, Feb. 18 at the Village, the Court is having a retirement party of the Butterfly Galactica. This is a fundraiser and the party starts at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, the Emper-



Matthew Brown



Rick Manning



Tommy Turner

or and Empress will have a Tribute to the Candidates at the Stallion (Polk and Ellis Streets) starting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. The Casa Loma will play hosts to the Emperor and Empress, as Ken and Sissy will be giving their In-Town Awards and Show, starting at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 21. Emperor Ken and Empress Sissy will be entertained by members of the Out-of-Town courts at a Monarch's Show at Kimo's starting at 8 p.m. At midnight, Emperor IX Bob Pace and Empress XIII Char, the reigning Emperor and Empress of the Americas, will host this an-

nual camp contest at the Kokpit. Only former heads-of-state are allowed to compete, and gauche and gaudy will win you these coveted titles. Saturday, Feb. 22, Coronation Day, will start off with the International Council of Courts conclave. Chez Mollet at 527 Bryant St. will be the site of this all-day affair (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). There will be speakers and workshops, with two special speakers, Nancy L. Roth, executive director of GRNL, and Dr. Hal Frank, president of the National AIDS Workshops. At 7 p.m. sharp, Coronation 1986 "Space Station Nashville" will

start at the Galleria Design Center. Tickets are going fast, so hurry and reserve your seats. Sunday, Feb. 23, will be the Victory Brunch held at Ragg's at 22 4th St., which starts at 11 a.m. The price is \$8 and the newly elected monarchs will be feasted at this event. As you can see, the months of January and February are going to be very busy for a lot of you, without even considering the other events not involving the court. We're going to need track shoes just to keep up with all the running around. All in all, it will be fun!

(Continued on next page)

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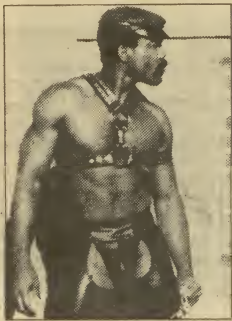
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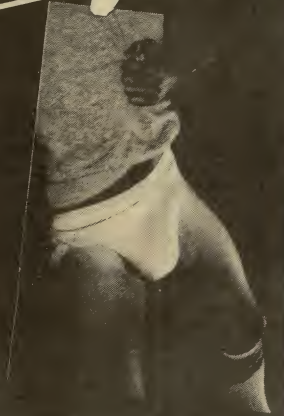


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Chatter

(Continued from previous page)

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Christmas spirit came shining through at the Midnight Sun on Christmas Day. From 7 p.m. until closing all bar receipts and tips taken in for the evening were donated to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. A total of \$3,393 was raised for the foundation within a seven-hour period, not to mention that the staff donated their time for this worthwhile cause. This is the second year the Sun has done this as their contribution to the fight against AIDS and service to their community. This is a fine example of this business' dedication, and I'm sure they will continue to make their generous donations over the years to come.

A hearty thank you to the members of the staff who made this possible. They are: David Ford, David Anderson, Bob Campbell, Joann Campbell, Scott Canning, Joshua Hackett, Rocky Trowbridge, Charlie Nettles, Preston King, Bill Morris, Kevin Sullivan, Gig Porter, and Stephen Wick. Without these people's commitment this evening could not have been made possible. Congratulations gang!

UP & COMING

Saturday, Feb. 8, the Barbary Coasters M/C will present its 20th Annual Motorcycle Awards and Show. It will be held at the Merchandise Mart's Exchange Ballroom, 1355 Market St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. The BCs are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year and according to VP Gene Forrest, this show is going to be exceptional.

'I'm hoping 1986 will be a banner year for all of us and wish all of you a prosperous year ahead.'



So bad it's glad! — New Years bag lady complete with motorcycle boots.
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

viewing and \$15 for lounge seating.

Sunday and Monday, Feb. 16 and 17, Men Behind Bars III will be presented at the Victoria Theatre on 16th Street. There will be two performances each day, Matinee and evening. Tickets are \$12 for matinees and

two.

ONE FINAL NOTE

As there has been so much going on this year, many of us could not, or did not, get into the holiday spirit. Unfortunately, I was one of them, as I barely forced myself into it. However, I do want to thank all of those people who sent me greetings and apologize for not reciprocating in some fashion. I'm hoping 1986 will be a banner year for all of us and wish all of you a prosperous year ahead.

That's it for now and stand by your friends . . . Aloha!!!

Remy

Saturday, Feb. 15, is the 11th Annual Cable Car Awards & Show. The Pacific Center at 22 Fourth St. will be the site of this year's awards. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for public voting and the awards presentations start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for direct

\$15 for evenings. Each year MBB donates the proceeds to various charities and to my knowledge, this year's charities have not been named. This is always a creative and enjoyable show, so plan to attend. You'll come away humming a tune or

Bazaar Calendar

Friday 1/10: Imperial Candidate Kick-off, Men's Room, 7 p.m., Dorothy Duster for Empress.

Imperial Candidate Kick-off, Stallion, 9 p.m., Tatiana for Empress.

CMC Open Meeting, SF Eagle, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 1/11: Imperial Gala, Presentation of Empress/Emperor Candidates, Hungarian Hall, 7 p.m., \$5.

Official After Gala Party, Kimo's, 11 p.m.

Casa Loma Party (after presentation) 11 p.m.

Kokpit Party (after presentation) 11 p.m.

Sunday 1/12: Auction, Men's Room, 12 p.m., Dorothy Duster (Empress Candidate).

Imperial Candidate Kick-off, Transfer, 3 p.m., Matt Brown for Emperor.

Monday 1/13: Matt Brown Open Meeting, Logan's, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 1/14: All Candidate Night, Kokpit, 8 p.m.

Wednesday 1/15: Tatiana Party, Village, 8 p.m., Empress Candidate.

Compiled by Karl Stewart



Dean Sandmire wearing a Tutus-R-Us at the S.F. Band Foundation's First Annual Dance-along Nutcracker Dec. 22.
(Photo: Rink)



SWEET LIPS SEZ . . .

Back Safe and Sound

DICK WALTERS



Bob Golovich (l.) with B.A.R. columnists Wayne Friday and Sweet Lips on a better day.

New Year's Day yours truly and Jay Noonan of Kimo's boarded a United Airlines plane for Portland to celebrate the Birthday (?) of David (Mame) Hamilton at the Embers/Avenue, and as usual Steve Suss and his wonderful staff did a great job on the food, and just about everyone in town was there to see the old bag, Mame, I mean. In attendance were of course myself and Jay, the wonderful Lucy, Consuello Pigg and child bride, the one and only great Mama Bernice looking

this grand opening.

Friday the 10th, Sutter's Mill will be celebrating the birthday of Craig Daley. I had to promise not to tell his age, and please don't anyone buy him a dial-a-deviate for the occasion.

The Galleon Restaurant and bar is serving about the finest food in the city right now if their Christmas dinner was an example, really exceptionally great, so give them a try some evening soon. I know DeDe will see that you are well taken care of.

'Lyle, you did a great job on the canapes, and of course Mame's Jack was there too, and Lance!'

very chipper, Sam and Gene of Dahl and Penne fame, Darcelle and Rock, and the handsome Dennis Gartner—and what a blast was had by all. Lyle, you did a great job on the canapes, and of course Mame's Jack was there too, and Lance!

Happy Birthday greetings as of last Sunday to Bob Golovich, and I do know how old you are because Totie of the New Bell Saloon let the cat out of the bag.

Soon to open is a smart new bar to be called Ginger's Too. That is spelled right. So watch for



Jose told Santa what he wanted for Christmas at the SF Band Foundation's First Annual Dance-along Nutcracker Dec. 22. (Photo: Rink)



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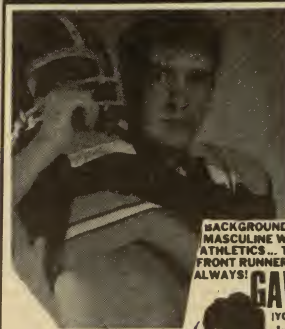
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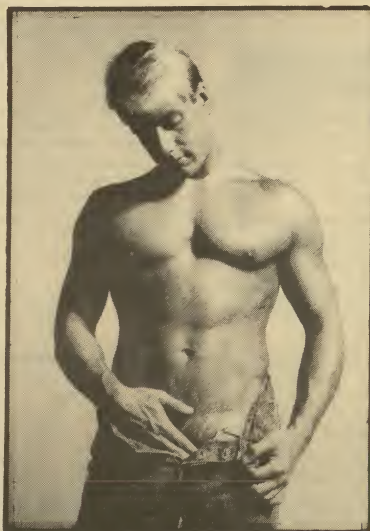
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BOOK RACK

Hall's Shadow

Our Three Selves: The Life of Radclyffe Hall
by Michael Baker
William Morrow & Co.

by Frank Howell

The place of Radclyffe Hall in English history has been taken for granted until recently. We all remember, at some vague point in high school or college, hearing about some quaint, Gothic-like tale, *The Well of Loneliness*. Many women today regard this durable old landmark as virtually a fairy tale about life as it isn't among women who love each other. But in its day *Well* helped open the door on a long-ignored subject.

Marquerite Radclyffe Hall was always known to friends as John. If any public figure can pass through history and claim credit for advancing the stereotype of the butch lesbian, Hall probably wins the prize. (A possible exception might be Gertrude Stein.) John always dressed as a man and felt trapped in the body God had designed for her.

During her life Hall had passionate affairs with Mrs. Mable Batten and Lady Una Troubridge. Her inherited wealth allowed her to live as she liked. But she seemed curiously reactionary in many ways and was

devoutly Catholic in style.

When *Well* was published in 1928, initial response was favorable, but shock gradually set in. The backlash took hold when one critic, James Douglas, editor of the *Sunday Express*, brayed, "I would rather give a healthy boy or a healthy girl a phial of prussic acid than this novel. Poison kills the body, but moral poison kills the soul."

A sensational trial caused wide public reaction, and the book was banned in England until 1949. Seen thereafter, the American edition was also prohibited, and on appeal the book was cleared for further publication.

Many notable personages of the day fought for the novel, including E. M. Forester, and Havelock Ellis, the noted sexologist, who wrote the foreword to *Well*.

A final irony emerged when another novel with a lesbian theme, *Extraordinary Women* by Compton McKenzie, a biting satire, appeared a few months

after *Well*. It was well received and caused virtually an uproar.

As Michael Baker points out, *Well* carried a rather negative message. The gay life came across as sad and depressing, but the final message left the reader by Hall is that homosexuals still deserved the right to a decent life. Most gays today would regard the story as heavily handed.

Hall wrote several novels over the years, but it is for *Well* that she will always be known. Parts of the plot are surely based on her life. The lesbian here, Stephen Gordon, dresses as a man, and Hall informs the reader that her father had always wished for a boy.

Baker, a noted writer for film and television, has woven a solid chronicle of Hall's passions and bases his findings on much new material. He leaves us with the impression that Hall's shadow will continue to hover over the social landscape for years to come.

Mercy in Dark Places

In Such Dark Places
by Joseph Campbell
Alyson, \$6.95

by Marv Shaw

The dark places are in New York's East Village, where the metropolitan grime darkens everything, and the closets of the mind. Eugene, a part-time mover who would be a full-time photographer, prowls for dramatic pictures. When he happens on a Good Friday procession, he clicks away furiously, only to be pestered by a dirty kid. The procession becomes a melee, a man is killed, and the kid disappears, along with a loaded camera.

The recovery of the camera and its film, which might contain evidence of the murder, becomes an obsession with Eugene. He hunts down the boy, who seems to be playing a cat-and-mouse game with him. Along with the attempts to pin down the elusive kid, there are encounters with a weary but dogged priest, a friendly but sinister Latino who was supposed to be the best friend of the murdered man, the boy's terrorized mother, and a dismal, self-hating woman Eugene must get out of his life.

Eugene is also a repressed

homosexual, who yields to brief episodes that only endanger and degrade him: doing a cab driver and getting arrested, doing a demanding indigent in a shelter for the homeless. Along with the erratic struggle to retrieve the camera, the reader also sees a man fighting through mystery and cruelty to get to truth and love.

The narrative pace is brisk, but Campbell is also careful to present distinct, really breathing characters living in settings that have impact on all our senses. Two of the best examples are the priest, Father Carusone, a deeply compassionate man who might still be capable of crime, and a burnt-out shell of a tenement with all the horror of a charnel house.

If stated out of context, the concluding irony would appear idiotically improbable, but Campbell has prepared us gratefully to accept Father Carusone's judgement: "Mercy is so strange. It lurks in such dark places." Highly recommended.

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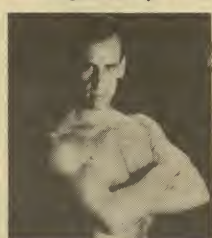
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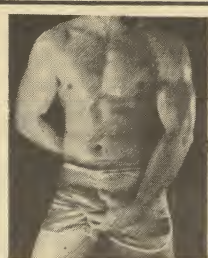
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JACK - 863-6116

Appeared in Jan '85 Honcho

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24 Hrs. Brian 922-0751 Out

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"San Francisco's Most
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Young, Bond, Smooth, Tight,
Gymnast, hung thick, versatile
in FR GK BD SM FF w/
GM RM 621-0297



JASON

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★ DONKEY ★

★★ DICK ★★

No B.S.! Huge, long thick tool with big, shaved low hangers swinging heavy from healthy, hunky body. 30, hot and extremely handsome, big nipples. When you want the best.

★★ MATT ★★

★ (415) 567-5445 ★

A MAN FOR ALL REASONS

SUPER HANDSOME & CLEAN CUT DOMINANT BOYISH MAN. NORWEGIAN SAILOR, HUNG, FUN & SAFE. HARD 8". BLONDE w/BLUE, SENSITIVE PERSONALITY. A HOT MAN! YOU SHY? 24 HOURS

Mike 775-5342

6' 4", 195#, hairy X-Army Sgt. Chuck 431-1579 E3

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Our Models & Companions are Screened for your Health, Security and Peace of Mind, so

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RICHARD OF S.F. (415) 821-3457

Applicants Needed

Must Be Exceptional

BLOND CANADIAN

Photo by Reno



I have been out to sea too long! Hung 8". Slow & easy. Dynamite good looks, cleft chin, 44"C, 32"W, 6', 185 lbs.

Ron 775-7057

HUNG LIKE HORSE

Unct Eric 408-336-5077 E11

X-WEST POINTER

Safe Vers. Healthy Blond. \$60 In/\$70+ Out 626-7710 E5

HAIRY DADDY

TAKES CARE OF YOU

Muscles, Massage, and More Handsome, Hung, Healthy Man 24 Hrs. Andy 821-9955 E5

GREAT BOTTOM MAN

Blonde/Blue 5'8" 145# Goodlooking and fun! Out Only. Ted TA1-0655 E4

Wild Slave Has Opening For Horse Hung Men 552-6786 E3

8" SLAMMER!!

Take It To The Balls! Tom 626-5982 50/60 24 Hrs E3

Big Dick

626-1595 E3

EX-FIREMAN

29, 5'10", 190 lbs., BR/BR, 8" cut. Likes to lean back while you work his hose. \$50.

673-7442

NO GREEK

Rockin' Roll New Year Hot Guy 5'10" 130 lbs 8" Massage, Escort, Hot, Safe, Jeff Scott. Evenings 864-9920 Ext 103 E2

THE REAL THING

Competition B.B. 6'5", 245# 54C, 21A, 32W, 31T Frank (415) 621-1066 \$120

BLOND BODYBUILDER

200# of w/defined muscle into S/M - Body Worship - B/D - J/O - TT - C&B - Jim 621-0297 E2

Texas Stud

Goodlooking hunk, 26, 6'2", 185, mustache, blue eyes, masculine.

50/65 TERRY 24 HRS.

775-9756

Feel The Heat

MASCLINE BLACK TOP, 6', 170, 9"/CUT, HAIRY & DEFINED. SENSUAL & SAFE. \$75 in/\$100 out

Cole 647-2764 VISA/MC

11" x 7 1/2"

Goodlooking Cuban, 27, 6'1", 185-, muscular, cut. ROBERTO 863-4399

For Your Pleasure

Handsome, Young, Versatile, Meaty 8", 42C, 30W 6', 170, Muscular Lbs. JEFF 626-2392

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The men who use our service get connected together for a hot, erotic gay experience with other HORNY GUYS 24 hours a day. Do it now for LESS THAN \$3.50 an hour. (415) EGO-TRIP (346-8747)

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Models as "Living Statues" at Bondage Art Show 7 PM Jan 18 & 25. Call 974-6149 E2

EXTRA EXTRA HUNG

Total Top Real Hot Super looks 27 yrs old Visa MC Amex. In or Out Rex 864-4010 24 hrs. E2

Chris Noll Super Porn Star



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Jeff has truck. 626-8281 Haul • Transport • Delivery E2

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(415) 621-2652

Hot Blonde Boy 19 yr very sexy and "Q" big cock 5'10" 140# versatile friendly Tony 863-3638 E2

MUSCLE STAR

54C, 20A, 30W Ken 928-5372 E2

BIGGER IS BETTER

Sexy young stud, 23, loves to please!

• Big/Overweight Men •

into all fantasies!

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HOT JOCK

Full Equip GM RM Light to Heavy FF WS SM Leather Bondage! Steve 584-3983 E2

COLLEGE JOCK

BRIAN; 22, 6'2", 180 lbs. Solid, Smooth, 44"C. Brown Hair & Blue Eyes. Available Days & Weekends. Handsome, Friendly. \$75. RICHARD OF SF 821-3457

HUGABLE HUNK

Masculine caring 40 yr. man Handsome, Versatile, Muscular, Healthy, Hung, Vic, 821-9988 E5

MEN, MEN AND MORE MEN

The Best in Phone Fantasy FREE LONG DISTANCE CALL BACK AVAILABLE.

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Hot Tops Sweat
Daddys Jock Straps
Daddy's Boy Bondage
Truckers W.S.
Leather SandM
and much, much more
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ROCK HARD, ROCK TOUGH (ROCKY 282-8058) ROCK AND ROLL WITH ME!

TOM OF FINLAND FANTASY MAN

Rough & ready GQ face. 6', 200#, BB, hung big & thick. 27 years, topman. Boot licker & butt kisser wanted.

Jason 863-6116 Very Safe

Hole Stuffer

Jeff. 861-5216. E2

READY WILLING ABLE

X-Navy 6'2" Blond and Blu Sensual/Sexual Bill 863-4097 \$75/24 hrs. E2

TERRY OWENS



FROM 'THE YOUNG AND THE HUNG' \$115 824-0263

BIG BUTT tall hairy blue-eyed Daddy. Chad 861-7014 E3

★ \$25 - Hot Athlete ★★
★ Bill, 441-1054. Massage, etc. ★ E4

WELL HUNG

Older Men Welcome 550-7078 E5

Head My Way! In/Out Ask for B.J. \$25 864-5483 E2

Russian Blond

Extremely handsome, 19 yr. old, 6'2", 170 lbs., hung, cut, clean, shaven, smooth body. Call

Dane at 775-5629

Hot Leatherguy - Versatile 21 - Gd-Lk - Cliff - 680-8959 E2

HOT HAWAIIAN

25 - 5'9" - 140, dark tan, smooth & muscular for J/O & stripper, Chris 922-0805 E2

Commode. Jim. 431-7230. E2

Just arrived from N.Y.

Ex-Collegiate Wrestler

Very good looking, 6'1", 210 lbs. Manhandle or punish. All scenes considered. S/M, B/D. Randy 864-2359

DREAM MAKER

Handsome black B.B., 28, 6ft., 195, 47C, 31W, 16A, 25T, Hung 7". Perfectly smooth & hairless body. Warm, friendly & very sexy. Dream Maker J.O., posing, cuddling, leather, F.F., light S/M. Your fantasy is my pleasure. Treat yourself to the body you've always wanted. For an affair with Sonny call 621-8640. \$100in/\$120out

WARM & FRIENDLY

DREW; 29, 6', 160 lbs., 40C, 29W. Smooth, Brown Hair & Eyes. Easy going. Masculine, Well Endowed. Available Evenings & Weekends. \$75/24 Hrs. RICHARD OF SF 821-3457

Dirty greasy 501's, jockstraps, man smells, J/O, W/S, Lt S/M. Very safe encounter 928-0449 E4

Self-Suck/Vacu-Pump/Plus—Meat That's Hard-To-Beat! • Scott (Thick-10) Taylor • Porno Stag \$100 552-3260 E2

UNCUT 10 1/2"

HOT CUBAN MANBOY Hot Rod, Good Service, Great Action, Good Looking RICK 285-4933 24 HOURS

HOT ORIENTAL BODY BUILDER

31y, 5'7", 47C, 30W, 17A TOM 751-STUD

S & M

Phone Sex

346-8747

Hot J/O. Rex 928-5826. E7

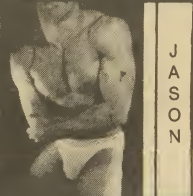
\$30. Married straight stud, 36. Take it from ERIK, 527-1110 E4

New! GUY NEXT DOOR STEVE; 21, 5'10", 150 lbs., 29W, Blond Hair & Blue Eyes, 38C, Warm & Friendly. \$75/24 Hrs. RICHARD OF SF 821-3457

... When You Need A Man On Top!

#1 Topman (9" x 6 1/2") loves lying back while getting serviced and/or riding hard on top! Call Mitch—The Man for Men 550-7008

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Men featured in Blueboy, Mandate, Drummer, Playgirl & Porno Stars!

KEVIN - (861-4538)

Masculine Young Blonde, Blue Eyes. Handsome, Super-Hung, All-American Boy Type. Will Play In/Out 24 Hrs. KEVIN - 861-4538 (or) 864-4010 E2

19, HOT BUNS!

I like it in my tight squirming buns! Masculine & affectionate. AMEX/VISA/MC \$60 Todd 641-7517

ComQuest A Success - Membership Growing By 300 Per Month In San Francisco!

What is ComQuest?
ComQuest is Northern California's new premier gay matching service. ComQuest's computerized matching system enables you to meet gay men who fit your preferences for age, race, residence, personality, interests, lifestyle, and physical attributes.

ComQuest began providing gay matching services in 1982 for Chicago area residents, and has made matches for thousands of members. We now cover L.A., San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, and Atlanta with the same prompt, economical, quality service.

Who Uses ComQuest?
ComQuest members are successful gay men, like you, who want a different, safe, interesting way to meet gay partners for dates, friendships, or lifelong relationships.

If you live in or frequently visit the major cities of California, and you want to meet compatible guys safely, then ComQuest is for you! It doesn't matter whether you're young or old, rich or poor, white or black, tall or short, small or large, shy or aggressive, experienced or inexperienced—ComQuest can help you find compatible friends or partners. We are not selective, so that you can be.

If you or your friends live in or plan to visit Chicago, or Atlanta, ask for your respective application forms. Those living outside our coverage areas may still receive matches, but may not be "listed" for new applicants to contact. ComQuest is a great idea for travelers!

How Does it Work?
Take a look at the questionnaire to the right, and you will see just how specific you can get as to the types of guys you can meet. Note that you can specifically meet those who share your feelings about "safe sex" activities.

ComQuest's matching system, using a high speed computer, analyzes your detailed questionnaire responses and compares each of your weighted "ideal match" descriptive responses with the corresponding self-descriptive responses of all current members, and prints out the contact information for the 20 members having the highest matching scores.

What Does It Cost, And What Do I Get?
This is the best part. For only \$20 you get the contact information for the 10 to 20 people who are your best matches from our current pool of applicants. And you get a six month membership with ComQuest, during which other new members may be matched to you and receive your contact information on their lists of matches (if you choose to be listed, that is). You can know of these matches only when they contact you.

Your membership includes a \$5.00 coupon which can be applied toward any ComQuest services, and a membership pamphlet containing advice on how to "break the ice" when contacting other members.

How Can I Be Sure I'll Get My Money's Worth?
ComQuest has received dozens of unsolicited letters and calls from members who have found lovers and who are otherwise quite pleased with our service. (Not to mention the fact that most of our members choose to renew their memberships semi-annually.) Several of our clients have told us we should be charging at least \$50 for the service we provide (thank you!). If you are not satisfied, however, we will make a prompt (full) refund of your \$20 membership fee.

OK, I'll Try It. How Do I Fill Out This Form?
This is the hard part. But it can be a lot of fun, too. It's important to do it right—if you fill it out wrong, you may get lousy matches! Refer to the application form on the next page when reading the following instructions.

Instructions
Step 1. Enter Your Mailing Address (for our confidential use).
Step 2. Enter Your Contact Information and a brief description (so new members can contact you).

Step 3. Describe Yourself by circling the word me beside each descriptive item which is a true description of yourself. You should circle at least one me under each category. Circle more than one, where appropriate.

Step 4. Describe Your Ideal Match by circling the word me, no, ok, or yes beside each item to be true, depending on the extent to which you would like that item to be true of your ideal partner. Circle yes if you would like that description to be true for your match.

Circle ok if you don't care one way or the other.
Circle no if you would not like that description to be true for your match.

Circle yes if you want no matches with guys for whom that description is true, even if they have other desired qualities. To guarantee at least 10 good matches, use between 10 and 20 vetos.

Step 5. Rank the Categories. The questionnaire is divided into 16 categories. To insure that your responses on less important items will not override your responses on the more important ones, you must indicate which categories are important to you in the blank to the left of each category heading. There are two ways. In either case the matches will be based mostly upon the more important categories, with the less important ones serving as tie breakers. Select one of the following

Rank each category from 1 to 16 in its order of importance to you, with 1 as the most important and 16 as the least; or
Put a check mark beside the five most important categories, leaving the rest blank.

Example: Here is an example of how a hairy, bearded man looking for a smooth partner might mark the form if he considered the **Facial/Body Hair** category to be his fourth most important category.

Facial/Body Hair

me no ok yes Smooth hairless face
me no ok yes Clean shaven
me no ok yes Mustache
me no ok yes Beard
me no ok yes Smooth (no body hair)
me no ok yes Hairy legs
me no ok yes Hairy chest
me no ok yes Very hairy (teddy bear)

What's the Final Step?
When you have completed the application, carefully remove it from this publication and mail it to the address below along with a check or money order for \$20. Use that address or our toll free phone number to request additional applications or information.

How Long Will It Take?
You will normally receive your matches within 14 days of the postmark date of your application.

Application Form for Northern California

Copyright ComQuest 1989

Step 1 - Please print your name and mailing address below. This is only for use in mailing you your matches, and is kept confidential.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (optional)
I hereby affirm that I am at least 18 years of age and that I will hold neither myself nor my agents liable for the behavior of the people I meet as a result of its services. (You must sign and date this statement.)
Signed _____ Date _____

Steps 3, 4, and 5 (See the instructions to the left)

Residence

me no ok yes San Francisco
me no ok yes Oakland (East Bay)
me no ok yes Palo Alto (Peninsula)
me no ok yes San Jose area
me no ok yes Guerneville (Russian River)
me no ok yes Sacramento area
me no ok yes Stockton/Mokelumne Delta
me no ok yes Monterey Bay area

Type of Relationship

me no ok yes Limited involvement
me no ok yes Deep involvement
me no ok yes Short term
me no ok yes Long term
me no ok yes Live apart always
me no ok yes Eventually live together
me no ok yes Live together always
me no ok yes Exclusive, monogamous

Utics

me no ok yes Non smoker
me no ok yes Light smoker
me no ok yes Heavy smoker
me no ok yes Non or light drinker
me no ok yes Moderate drinker
me no ok yes Non drug user
me no ok yes Spectator sports events
me no ok yes Going to the movies
me no ok yes Parties
me no ok yes Dancing

Entertainment/Social Activities

me no ok yes Fine arts events
me no ok yes Live entertainment
me no ok yes Rock concerts
me no ok yes Spectator sports events
me no ok yes Going to the movies
me no ok yes Parties
me no ok yes Dancing

Hobbies/Interests/Sports

me no ok yes Computers/electronics
me no ok yes Photography/art/crafts
me no ok yes Remodeling/body building
me no ok yes Volleyball/sports/etc
me no ok yes Tennis/squash/ball/etc
me no ok yes Cycling/running/climbing
me no ok yes Cooking

Economic/Job Status

me no ok yes Financially dependent
me no ok yes Unemployed
me no ok yes Self supported
me no ok yes College student
me no ok yes Unskilled/semi-skilled
me no ok yes Skilled/white collar
me no ok yes Business/entrepreneur
me no ok yes Professional/executive

Miscellaneous/Contact Info

me no ok yes Have no privacy at home
me no ok yes Have no transportation
me no ok yes Secondary speech impediment
me no ok yes Frequent travel
me no ok yes Frequent travel

Height/Weight

me no ok yes Shorter than 5'6"
me no ok yes Between 5'6" and 5'9"
me no ok yes Between 5'9" and 6 feet
me no ok yes Taller than 6 feet
me no ok yes Slimmer than average
me no ok yes Average (or height)
me no ok yes Heavier than average
me no ok yes Very heavy

Race/Nationality/Hair Color

me no ok yes Black
me no ok yes Asian/Oriental
me no ok yes Hispanic/Latino
me no ok yes Caucasian
me no ok yes Black/Brown/Reddish hair
me no ok yes Blond or reddish hair
me no ok yes Gray or white hair
me no ok yes Balding

Facial/Body Hair

me no ok yes Smooth hairless face
me no ok yes Clean shaven
me no ok yes Mustache
me no ok yes Beard
me no ok yes Smooth (no body hair)
me no ok yes Hairy legs
me no ok yes Hairy chest
me no ok yes Very hairy (teddy bear)

Body Build

me no ok yes Masculine
me no ok yes Average
me no ok yes Delicate
me no ok yes Small to average size
me no ok yes Average to large
me no ok yes Very large/endowment
me no ok yes Circumcised
me no ok yes Non-circumcised

Favorite Bedtime Activities

me no ok yes Cuddling/creeping
me no ok yes J/V (phone or otherwise)
me no ok yes "Safe sex"
me no ok yes French active (giver of BJ)
me no ok yes French passive (recipient)
me no ok yes Greek active (top anal)
me no ok yes Greek passive (bottom)
me no ok yes Experimental/kinky

* If you must on playing safe, and prefer to use condoms if playing in Greek or full term French activities, circle the no yes from item. Circle veto if unwilling to play safe.

Send completed form with \$20 (check or money order) to:

ComQuest P.O. Box 369, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
(800) 633-6969 (toll free, 24 hours)



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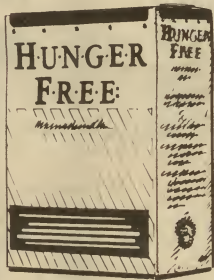
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42 packets

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For your New Year's Resolution to shape-up we offer our best formula!



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High Fiber Formula
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A delicious nutritionally balanced
diet formula to replace one or two
meals a day

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Our best energy drink with 85%
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The fat fighter!

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SUPER CALCIUM 750 mg.

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The mineral you've been hearing
about for strong and healthy
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We've made vitamin/mineral taking
easy

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(Daly City)
992-0992

1738 POLK STREET
(Between Washington and Clay)
673-8182

556 CASTRO STREET
(Between 18th and 19th Sts.)
431-1330

2068 CHESTNUT STREET
(Near Steiner)
931-2022

